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MEDIA ALERT
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DONATION BRINGS SMILES FOR SCHOOL KIDS

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians helps bring dental clinic to school

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — The mobile dental clinic, the Smile Factory, is visiting Sunny Sands Elementary School in Cathedral City this month, screening and treating some 900 students for dental work free of charge.

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians has donated funding to help bring the 56-foot, fully equipped medical office on wheels to the Cathedral City playground where it has taken up residence. Inside, the clinic features three examination rooms, an office, X-ray machine and sterilization equipment surrounded by brightly painted, kid-friendly walls that take the fear factor out of a child's first visit to the dentist.

For a lot of Coachella Valley students, the Smile Factory offers the only dentist visit they've ever had.



On staff are one full-time dentist, one part-time dentist, one part-time hygienist, and two full-time dental assistants. Smile Factory staff work closely with school officials to ensure that when a child is screened and needs a procedure, the parents are informed and asked for their consent prior to treatment.

“We understand that many parents are not in a position to pay for dental care, and we've been very impressed by the Smile Factory's

exceptional work,” said Tribal Chairman Richard M. Milanovich. “Plus, having the clinic at the school on a daily basis goes a long way to help kids feel comfortable with the whole environment involved with dentistry.”

The Tribe has been a longtime supporter of the Smile Factory, donating some \$20,000 since 2006. The cost of the latest screening was covered by the Tribe’s most recent \$2,500 donation.



The mobile clinic, the brainchild of a Palm Springs dentist, was recently merged with the Borrego Community Health Foundation of Borrego Springs, Calif. For more information, contact them at their Cathedral City medical clinic at 69175 Ramon Road, Suite A, or by phone at (760) 321-6776.

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About the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe located in Palm Springs, Calif., with 32,000 acres of reservation lands that spread across Palm Springs, Cathedral City, Rancho Mirage, and into the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains. The Tribe’s developments include two Palm Springs golf courses, the Spa Resort Casino and Hotel in downtown Palm Springs, and the Agua Caliente Casino Resort Spa in Rancho Mirage, which includes the 2,000 seat concert venue, The Show. It also operates the Indian Canyons preserve, an environmental paradise open to the public.