

## **SAN DIEGO DENTIST HAUNTED BY SMILES IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

*Dr. Kim Corrigan-Dankworth Part of a Team that Provided Critical Services to Over 1,000 in 5 days*

**SAN DIEGO, CA – September 26, 2007** – Dr. Kim Corrigan-Dankworth is one half of the husband and wife team that makes up La Costa Dental Excellence, a North County dental practice. Dr. Corrigan-Dankworth and her husband usually focus their attention on the dental needs of their North County patients. Recently Dr. Corrigan-Dankworth traveled to the Dominican Republic as part of a group assembled by the international dental organization – The Crown Council. The group journeyed to remote villages and worked for five days providing much needed dental care to over 1,000 children and adults in the rural areas.

“We quickly realized that five days was nowhere near enough time to care for everyone who needed it. We worked from sun up to sun down to see as many as possible,” said Dr. Kim Corrigan-Dankworth. “Those smiles still haunt my dreams,” she said.

The team of 30 included six dentists, four dental hygienists and 20 other various staff struggled with both the elements and the primitive conditions while confronting the poor state of dental health of most of the islanders. Dr. Corrigan-Dankworth and her colleagues pulled over 36 teeth deemed beyond repair in one bizarre 90 minute span.

“Less than 6% of the population live above the poverty line. Our patients didn’t have the means or the education to care for their teeth,” Dr. Corrigan-Dankworth commented. The group had the challenge of their professional lives as they had to jerry-rig flashlights to function as dental lights and lawn chairs became dental chairs. “In spite of all the challenges the entire team felt enriched. For me it was the smile of a little four year old. I was her first dentist. She was all eyes and smiles. I’ll never forget her. My life has been changed and I hope I changed a few lives too,” said Dr. Corrigan-Dankworth.

Dr Kim and her husband, Stephen Dankworth, DDS have been members of the Crown Council, an association of elite dentists in North America for over 10 years. During that time the Dankworth’s, along with the other members of the Crown Council, have raised over \$22 million. The funds are distributed to children’s charities through the Council’s Smiles for Life program. The trip to the Dominican Republic was funded via Smiles for Life. When asked if she planned on returning to the Dominican Republic Dr. Corrigan-Dankworth was enthusiastic, “I can’t wait to go back. I’ve never felt so compassionate in my entire life. It makes you feel so worthwhile, so alive.”

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### **About Kim Corrigan-Dankworth, DDS**

Dr. Corrigan-Dankworth earned her DDS from the University of the Pacific. She continues to train with some of the most prestigious post graduate dental organizations in the world and is considered a leader in both cosmetics and sedation dentistry. Her practice, La Costa Dental Excellence was founded in 2003. She is a member of American Dental Association, CA Dental Association, Crown Council, Smiles for Life, and Doctors of Conscious Sedation.

<http://www.lacostadentalexcellence.com/html/about.html>

### **About Smiles for Life**

The Smiles for Life Foundation is the children's charity organization of the Crown Council, an organization of leading-edge dentists throughout North America. Each year over a four-month period, Crown Council dentists participating in the Smiles for Life campaign offer professional teeth whitening services at a considerably reduced price and donate 100 percent of the proceeds to children's charities. The Crown Council's Smiles for Life Foundation has raised more than \$22 million since 1998, benefiting nearly 500 children's charities across North America.

<http://www.crowncouncil.com/SmilesforLife.cfm>

### **About Crown Council**

The Crown Council is an association of leading-edge dental teams from the United States, Canada, and many other parts of the world. Giving back is a critical part of the Crown Council's culture. Each year for four months, members of the Crown Council whiten their patients teeth and give 100% of the fee they would have received to our dedicated charitable effort...the Smiles for Life Foundation. Over the past 10 years we have raised over \$23,000,000 together...contributed primarily to children's charities around the world.

<http://www.crowncouncil.com/CrownCouncil.cfm>

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