



Global Kindness
FOUNDATION

Bringing Smiles Worldwide



Iraq Report - December 2024

Samarra & Najaf

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This camp was dedicated to the memory of Sister Ruby Hussein.

(She and her family have been and are GKF volunteers and supporters.)



About Us

The Global Kindness Foundation (GKF) was founded in 2007 by Dr. Hasnain Dewji and his wife Fatemah Dewji from Vancouver, Canada. They have always had a passion for serving people and in the past have volunteered their time through various other charities and initiatives, including Kindness in Action. Through this work, they identified that many impoverished regions were not serviced due to the difficult conditions or lack of desire, and thus the Global Kindness Foundation was born. Its early missions were to Najaf Iraq and Kargil India. Over time GKF has visited Haiti, Tanzania, Peru, Cambodia, Kenya, Afghanistan, India, Lebanon, Syria, and revisited various cities in Iraq. In 2010 GKF was granted official charity status and has continued missions every year since. Over the years and the various missions, GKF realized there was just as much need in other medical specialty areas. As a result, when possible, each mission also provides medical and optical clinics. GKF has also set up a permanent charity dental clinic in Lucknow, India in the Unity School to serve impoverished students.

Leadership Team



**Dr. Hasnain
Dewji**



Fatemah Dewji



Inayat Daya



**Dr. Jaffer
Kermalli**



Mission Objective

A dedicated logistics team coordinated the multi-city trip with the support of schools and local officials. A multidisciplinary team of volunteers from all over the world worked together to provide comprehensive healthcare in Samarra and Najaf. Medical specialists such as anesthesiologists, a pediatric ICU physician, and family physicians supported the dental team. The latter consisted of a pediatric dentist, oral surgeons, a periodontist, an orthodontist, an endodontist and many general dentists. Though dental treatment was provided to many, the focus was placed on pediatric patients. This care could not have been possible without the support of the sedation team, the recovery team and the sterilization team. They worked tirelessly to ensure a smooth operation throughout the camp. Prior to treatment, a screening team visited different locations and identified individuals in need of care.



Dental Screenings

Dental screenings are brief examinations conducted by dental professionals to assess the overall oral health of an individual. These screenings typically involve a visual inspection of the teeth and gums, checking for signs of cavities, gum disease, and other oral health issues.

Dental screenings play a crucial role in preventive care. By identifying potential problems early on, dentists can recommend appropriate treatments and interventions to prevent the progression of oral diseases. Early detection and treatment can often lead to less invasive and more affordable procedures, ultimately saving patients time, money, and discomfort.

Furthermore, dental screenings can help raise awareness about proper oral hygiene practices and encourage individuals to maintain good oral health habits, such as regular brushing and flossing.

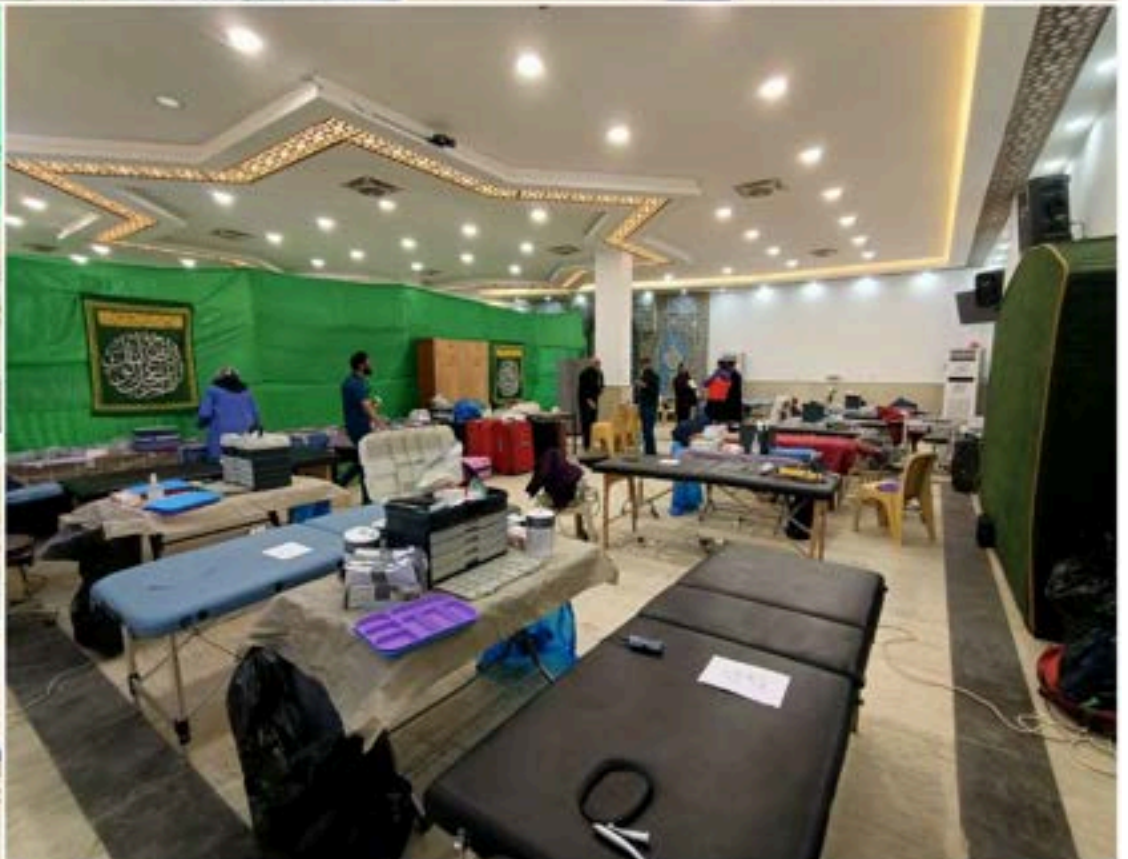
During the recent dental mission to Iraq, a small advance team was deployed ahead of the main group. This strategic move allowed for the efficient and effective conduct of dental screenings within the local community. This preliminary assessment provided valuable insights into the oral health needs of the population, enabling the main team to arrive fully prepared with the necessary resources and expertise to address the identified concerns.



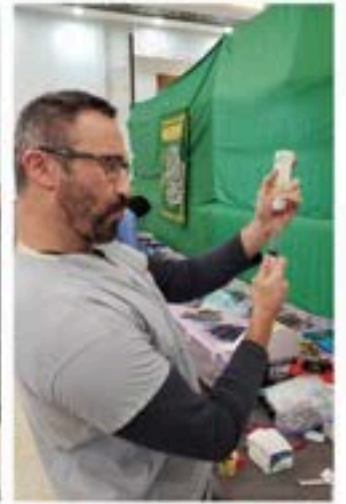
Samarra



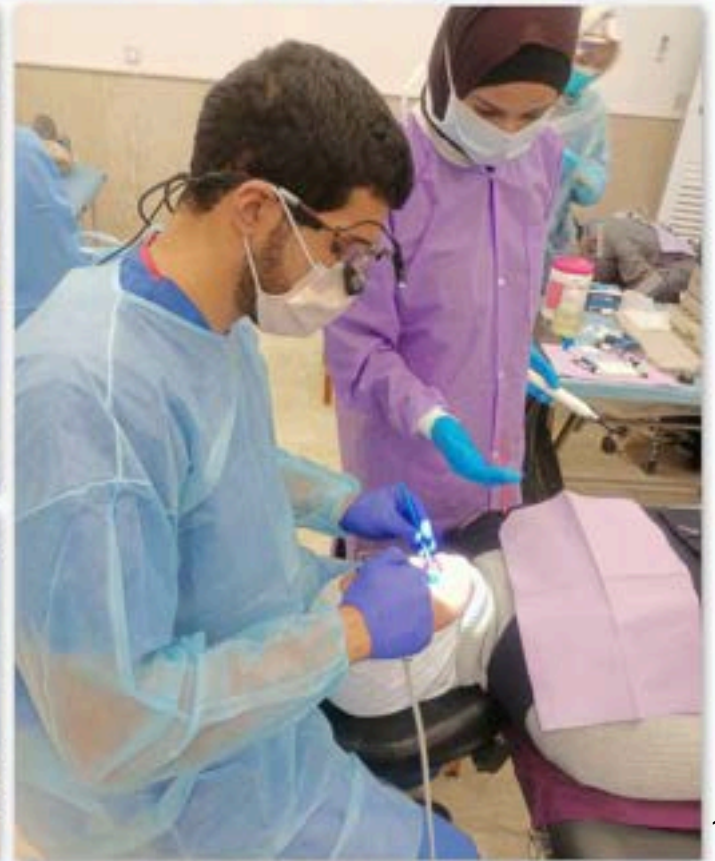
Samarra was our first site where care was rendered. This was a wonderful opportunity for the team to come together. Through shared accommodations and meals, and a common working space, a strong professional bond formed that allowed for the rigorous work ahead. Four full days of comprehensive healthcare were provided to a wide range of patients of varying ages. The final day consisted of treatment in the morning, and then packing and moving to our second site in Najaf.

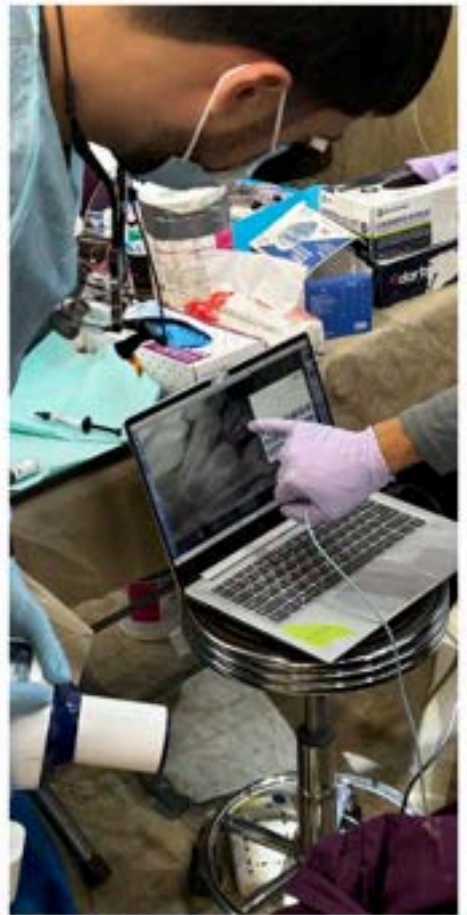










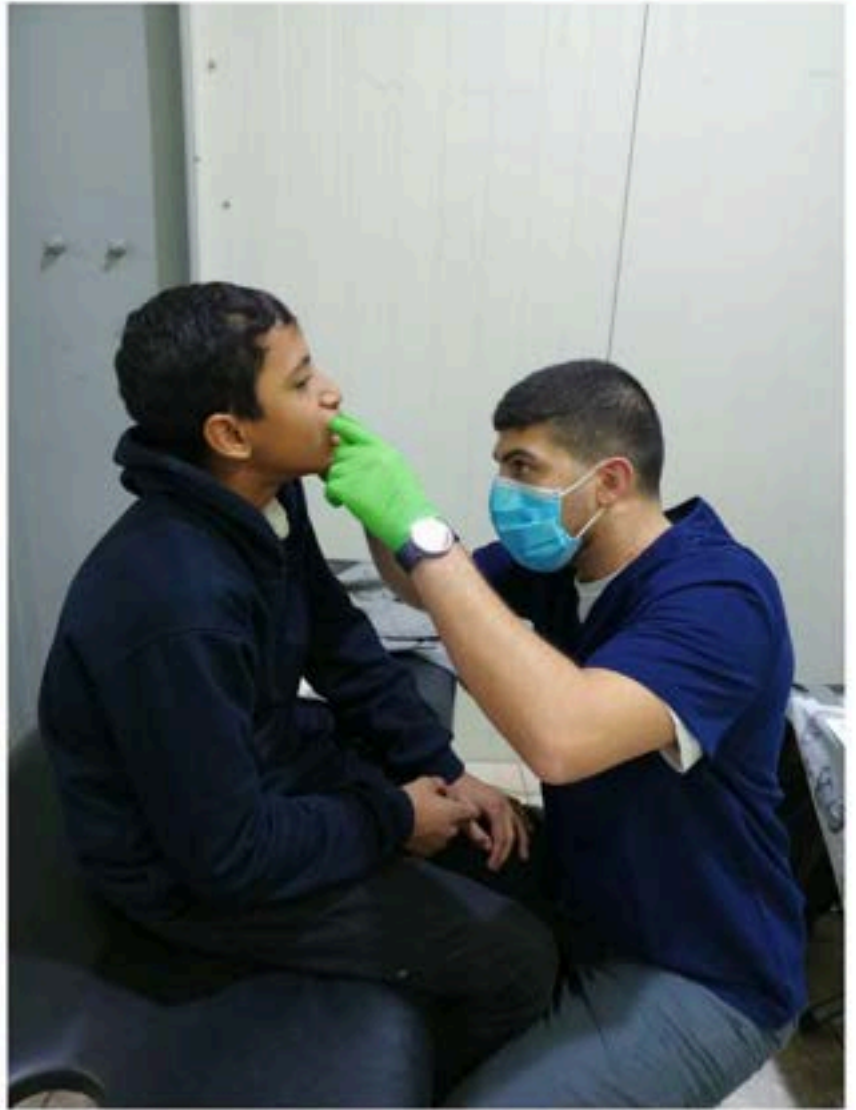


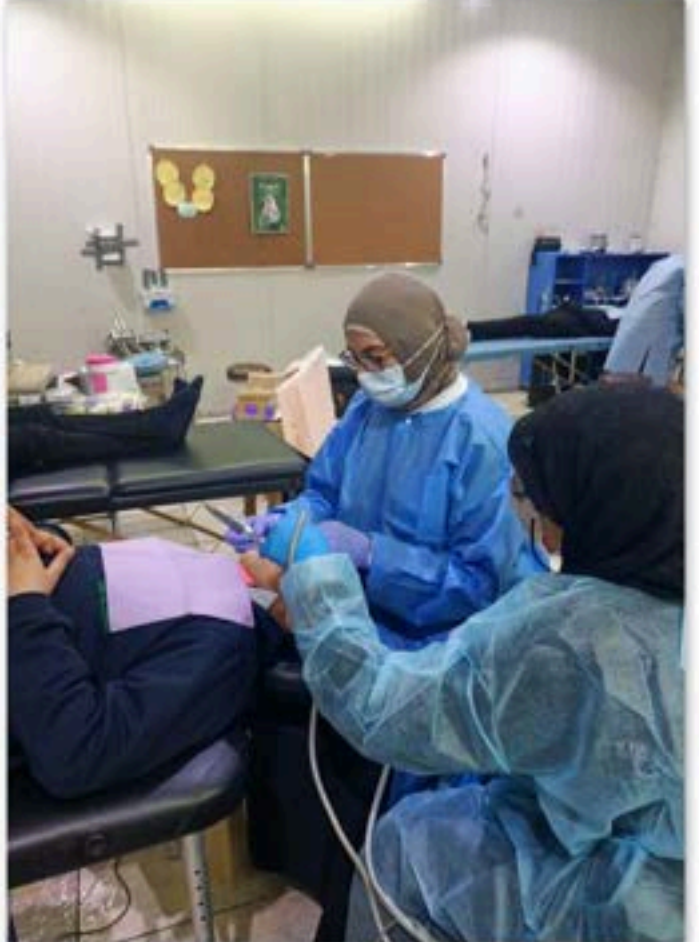
Najaf



After setting up at Dar Al Zahra school for Iraqi orphans, the team jumped into action to provide a full scope of healthcare. Prioritization was placed on seeing the students at the school. The dedicated volunteers made every attempt to render care to the teachers, administrators and other school members. In addition to this, STEM workshops were established to allow students to explore science and technology.



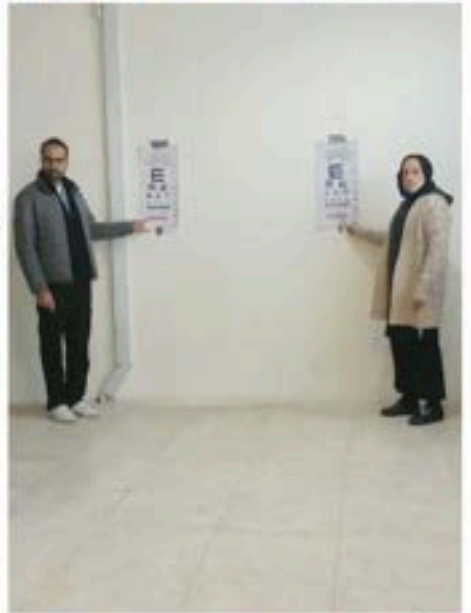














Recovery and Sterilization

Sterilization plays a critical role in ensuring the safety and effectiveness of dental treatment. By eliminating all forms of microbial life, including bacteria, viruses, and fungi, sterilization prevents the transmission of infectious diseases between patients and protects both patients and dental professionals from harm. During dental missions, where resources and space can be limited, sterilization often relies heavily on the dedicated work of volunteers. These individuals diligently collect used instruments, meticulously clean them, and then carefully package and sterilize them using appropriate methods such as autoclaving. Their tireless efforts, often conducted quietly in the background, are essential for maintaining a sterile environment and ensuring that every patient receives safe and effective dental care.



Recovery after anaesthesia is crucial for patient safety and well-being. Anaesthesia can have various side effects, including nausea, vomiting, shivering, and confusion. Close monitoring is necessary to identify and manage these potential complications. Volunteers played a vital role in patient recovery by closely monitoring patients' vital signs such as breathing, heart rate, and oxygen saturation, ensuring they remained stable. They also provided comfort, reassurance and support to patients as they regained consciousness, helping to alleviate anxiety and discomfort. They assisted with managing side effects like nausea and vomiting by providing anti-nausea medication and ensuring patients remained hydrated. Our volunteers communicated any concerns or changes in patient condition to the medical team, ensuring prompt intervention if needed. By diligently monitoring patients and providing compassionate care during the recovery phase, volunteers significantly contributed to the overall success of the dental mission.

Stats

The tables below represent the culmination of our effort by showcasing the cumulative impact of our care across various metrics, such as the number of patients treated, procedures performed, and the types of oral health issues addressed. This data provides a comprehensive overview of the mission's achievements and demonstrates the positive impact on the communities served.

Dental Stats

	Samarra	Najaf	Total
Screened	384	943	1327
Sedated Children	79	120	199
Non-Sedated Children	38	92	130
Adults	97	10	107
Radiographs	15	375	390
Sealants	470	467	937
Scaling Units	206	123	329
Pulpotomies with SSC	122	204	326
Stainless Steel Crowns	72	146	218
Extractions	273	296	569
Amalgam Surfaces	186	207	393
Composite Surfaces	376	445	821
Root Canals Treated	67	65	132
Total Teeth Treated	1065	1460	2525

Optical Stats

	Samarra	Najaf	Total
Screened		835	835
Examined	225	149	374
Single Vision	90	89	179
Readers	39	10	49
Sunglasses	13		13



Total Dental Care Provided: \$1,474,396

Total Optical Care Provided: \$128,945



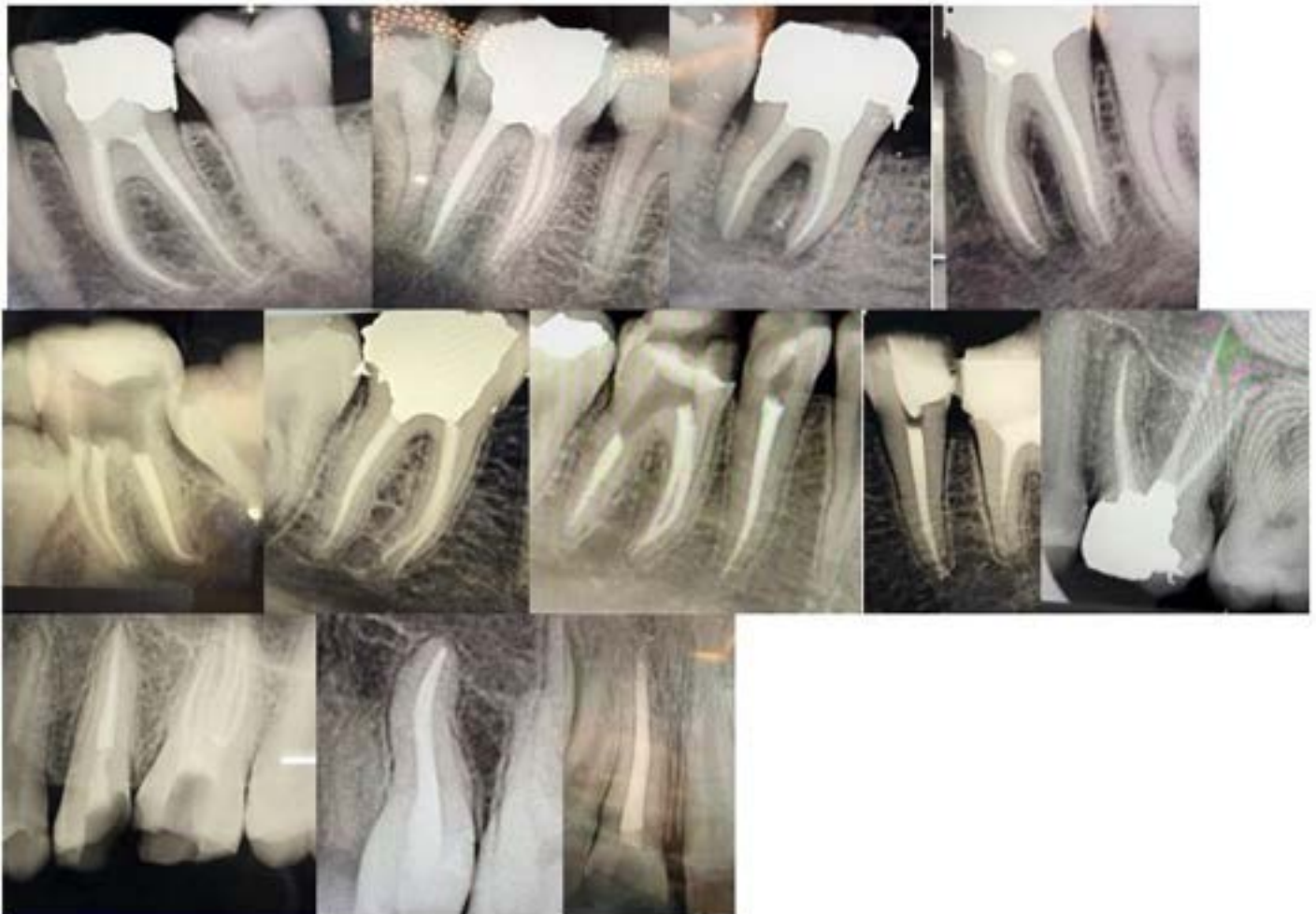
Endodontics



This year marked a significant milestone for our dental mission as we welcomed Dr. Ahmed Ismail, an esteemed endodontic resident, to our team. Dr. Ismail's expertise in root canal therapy proved invaluable, allowing us to provide a higher level of care to patients facing tooth loss.

By employing the latest advancements in endodontic technology and specialized instruments, Dr. Ismail effectively treated complex cases and saved teeth that might otherwise have required extraction. His dedication to preserving natural dentition improved our patients' oral health and enhanced their overall quality of life.

On behalf of the Global Kindness Foundation and the countless individuals who will benefit from their improved oral health, we extend our sincerest gratitude to Dentsply Sirona for their generous support of our recent dental mission. Your contribution to providing us with an endodontic motor, apex locator, files, and other supplies was invaluable in enabling our team to provide critical dental care to underserved communities. We also thank Clinical Research Dental and EndoTech for contributing valuable supplies, materials, and instruments. Your compassion and dedication to improving oral health worldwide are genuinely inspiring.



Volunteers

Dental missions rely entirely on the selfless dedication of volunteers. From the initial planning and logistics, where volunteers coordinate travel, secure supplies, and find suitable locations, to the actual execution of dental procedures, volunteers are the backbone of these life-changing initiatives. They perform examinations, cleanings, fillings, extractions, and even more complex procedures, bringing much-needed oral healthcare to underserved communities. Beyond the clinical work, volunteers are responsible for packing and cleaning equipment, ensuring a safe and hygienic environment for patients and fellow volunteers. These individuals have generously sacrificed their time away from their families and personal lives, demonstrating a profound commitment to improving the oral health and overall well-being of those in need. Hear the words of some of our many volunteers and why they took part in this camp.



Volunteer Voices

We asked our volunteers what drew them to GKF and what the dental mission meant to them. Here's what they had to say:

"The endeavour to make the world a better place!" - Farhana J.

"We, living in the West, are sometimes limited to donating financially through charity organizations. I came to GKF because it's more than just a donation foundation, it provides the opportunity to donate our time and skills directly to those in need, which is something I've always wanted to do. The 2024 Iraq Camp felt very personal to me because it's my homeland. I really enjoyed working with the GKF team and am grateful for the incredible opportunity and experience." -Zeinab H.



"I was brought to GKF by learning about it from a past volunteer who had amazing things to say. With that, I thought it would be a great way to spend my holiday break. Attending GKF to me meant taking time out of a busy schedule to give back, connect with people, make a difference, and see more of the world. I valued the sense of community within GKF, the other volunteers, and interacting with the Iraqi patients we served." -Shaan J.

"A humanitarian medical trip such as GKF can be deeply transformative, both personally and professionally, offering unique experiences and growth in each area. Being part of GKF for the past few years and as a regular volunteer, I can share many aspects. Firstly, On a personal level, I see an increase in one's deeper sense of empathy and gratitude because you are engaging with people of underserved communities. Experiencing and witnessing the challenges others face, in healthcare, can give you a new perspective on your own life and privileges. Secondly, the sense of purpose and fulfillment is great as you're directly involved in contributing to improving lives, which feels rewarding both emotionally and spiritually. Lastly, stepping out of your comfort zone due to certain living and working conditions will encourage resilience and adaptation to new environments, which is a great contributor to one's personal growth and a better appreciation for diverse ways of life.



On a professional level, I would say one of the most important aspects for us medical professionals is professional satisfaction. That our existence served a purpose, that our skills have been utilized, and we witness the direct result of improved health and care. Secondly, working in conditions that are different from our usual practices requires a different approach altogether. From problem-solving to adaptability, which contributes to development of new skills, expands our knowledge and understanding of different care systems and available resources around the world. Thirdly, volunteering globally improves culture awareness

and navigation through different health care systems. Interprofessional collaboration always results in a better outcome.

Above all, the long-lasting memories we create both with the communities we serve and the colleagues we collaborate with will be cherished for a lifetime. I'm a huge believer in helping and serving what we have and what we can for the betterment of all species. One of the best groups that one can achieve that in is GKF. I'm honoured to be part of the family and with God's continued blessings may we continue to strive, provide and contribute to make the world a better place one smile at a time :)” - Zahara Tajdar



‘As a Shia Muslim growing up in a religious family, visiting Iraq was always on my bucket list. The opportunity to go to places where Imam Ali spent most of his life and is buried, as well as the story of Karbala that I grew up listening to, made this journey deeply meaningful to me.

“When I heard about GKF, I thought it would be great to combine Ziarat with something extra. Little did I know I was signing up for a serious two-week, 12-hours-a-day full-time job! :) The job was physically demanding, made even harder by the thirst to visit the shrines after hours and dealing with jet lag. Yet, it was an incredibly rewarding experience that led to profound personal growth in such a short time—growth that feels like it's worth a lifetime.

One of the most impactful aspects of the trip was working alongside a group of selfless individuals. These people consistently set aside their own comfort, time, and money to prioritize someone else's happiness and pleasure.

This selflessness represented a higher level of morality—something I had only heard about before, but was fortunate enough to witness in action during this journey.

I'm deeply grateful for this opportunity. GKF will always hold a special place in my heart, and I would definitely encourage my children to participate in future years.” - Mahdia Z.



Pictured: Br Safa, Skaykh Ali, Dr. Dewji and other volunteers.

Lasting Impact



The Global Kindness Foundation has a profound and lasting impact on the lives of individuals in underserved communities. By providing access to essential oral healthcare, the mission not only improves oral health but also enhances overall well-being and quality of life. One such example is Ms. Huda Haider Kadhem, a former student of the Dar Al Zahra school, where GKF conducts dental missions. Through the mission's outreach,



Huda received critical dental care, inspiring her to pursue a career in dentistry. This experience ignited a passion within her, motivating her to excel in her studies and graduate at a high level. Now, Sarah is actively pursuing her dream of becoming a dentist, driven by the desire to give back to her community and provide the same life-changing care she herself received through the GKF dental camp.

Letter of Appreciation

How can you donate love, affection, cooperation, empathy, sympathy, humanity, knowledge and family feelings? How can you donate all of that? How do you donate time, life experiences, and knowledge? I think you have given the best answers for these questions by your actions. All what you have done for our children can't be expressed by words, you came from the farthest places to donate your time, expertise, and efforts. And here I am with my lousy attempt trying to translate the feeling of gratitude from our school and students to you, not only by writing these words but also by giving each of you a signature with a specific time and date from a student at this school whose life you have transferred by giving them love, care and treatment...

From / Ahmed
To / Mohammed Gar shasb
THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING.

12/25/2024

10:15



Date: 21st December, 2024

Letter of Appreciation

To:
Global Kindness Foundation

Dear Dr. Hameed Dewji,

On behalf of the entire Dar Al Zahra Charitable school, we extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation for the remarkable medical camp organized by the Global Kindness Foundation at our institution. Your unwavering dedication, commitment, and tireless efforts to serve orphaned children in the sacred city of Najaf are truly inspiring.

The continued efforts of your foundation in providing essential dental and medical care to our students bring immense ease and comfort to their lives—an act of compassion and kindness that goes beyond words of gratitude.

We would also like to commend the incredible work of your volunteers, whose skill and dedication were evident in their ability to efficiently screen and provide dental and optical services to over one thousand of our students. Their professionalism and care have left a lasting impact on us.

Your contributions have not only addressed immediate health needs but have also sown seeds of hope and confidence in the hearts of these children. We feel blessed to have had the opportunity to partner with such a noble organization and look forward to continued collaboration in serving those in need.

Thank you once again for your selfless service and commitment to improving the lives of the children at Dar Al Zahra.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Abdul Hameed,
General Manager
Dar Al Zahra Charitable School
Najaf, Iraq





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Acknowledgements



Dental missions would be severely hampered without the invaluable support of local individuals and dignitaries. These key figures play a crucial role behind the scenes, facilitating the entire operation. Local individuals often assist with logistical support, securing clinic space, arranging transportation, and even offering their homes for volunteer housing. They possess in-depth knowledge of the community's needs and can connect the mission team with the most vulnerable populations. Dignitaries, such as local officials and community leaders, lend their support by advocating for the mission, securing necessary permits

and approvals, and raising awareness within the community. Their endorsement can significantly enhance the mission's impact and foster positive relationships with local authorities.

Among many, we would like to thank the following individuals and dignitaries from Ataba Askariyan for supporting our December 2024 camp:

- Syed Kazim Musavi
- Dr. Nafe Jamil
- Syed Ali Madani
- Dr. Ali.



We would like to thank you for your ongoing support of our program.

Zahid Alibhai
Salman Molubhai
Syed Alaa
Pyrali Haji
Syed Essa
Dr Mohamed Hussein
Colgate
Crest
Dr. Saed Tofigh
Dental Savings Club
Henry Schein
ABC Dental
Abbotsford Children's Dentistry
Canadian Dental Supplies
Dar Al Zahra School (DAZ)
Atheer Hassan Jaaz
Ali Mohsen Ibrahim
Saif Khalil Ibrahim
Mohammed Kassim
Syed Ali Almadani
Firas Optometrist
Dr Aghadir H Alnakib
Mohammad Jessa - Industrial Textiles Canada
Abbas Rizvi - DAZ
Gulam Bhimani - DAZ
Syed Saad Aldeen Hashim - DAZ
Safa Hamid - DAZ
Hussam Hayder Askar Alabdali
Attaba Askariayn
Bondeye Optical
Dentsply Sirona



DAR-AL-ZAHRA

