



United Way of Tucson  
and Southern Arizona

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Seniors in Southern Arizona will be Smiling Thanks to United Way**

Tucson, AZ- United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona has been awarded a **Senior Smiles Grant** through the Alliance of the American Dental Association. This program is sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare and Sullivan-Schein, a Henry Schein Company. This grant will help to improve the oral hygiene of semi-dependent older adults and increase the awareness of their oral health needs.

United Way will distribute **1,500 Free Oral Health Kits** to local senior citizens through the following social service agencies, tribal authorities, senior centers, assisted living facilities and organizations listed below:

- Pima Council on Aging
- Arizona Long Term Care System
- Pima County Community Services System
- Interfaith Community Services
- Marshall Home for Men
- B'nai B'rith Covenant House and Council House
- St. Luke's Home
- Miracle Square
- Tohono O'odham Tribe through the Elder Care Council – Sells, AZ
- San Xavier District, Tohono O'odham Tribe
- Pascua Yaqui Tribe, Dental Clinic
- Handmaker Jewish Services for the Aging
- Polio Epic
- Barrio Viejo Elderly Housing

The kits contain tooth paste, a tooth brush, denture adhesive, denture cleanser, denture brush, dental floss and mouthwash. Participating seniors will also receive a Senior Smiles educational booklet that describes beneficial oral health techniques.

“This grant project will provide a wonderful benefit for seniors in our community, and will introduce them to the many commercial products that can help them improve their own oral health,” said Sharon Gartner, Director of Supporting Seniors, United Way. “Education about proper dental care is important for seniors because oral health interacts with many chronic conditions sustained by the elderly population, such as diabetes, osteoporosis, pneumonia, heart disease and stroke. We are so grateful for this award.”

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*United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona brings our community together to change the lives of those people who need it most. Through partnerships with agencies, neighborhoods, government and businesses, United Way is ensuring children are ready to succeed, families are self-sufficient, and seniors lead independent, active lives. For more information visit [www.unitedwaytucson.org](http://www.unitedwaytucson.org).*