



Dr. Dave – Volunteer of the Month October 2015

With his soft British accent and bright smile, Dr. Chandrakant Dave (pronounced Da-vey), is a calming influence on dental patients and staff alike. Having volunteered for twenty years with ACORN Dental Clinic, he has a long and faithful history of serving the patients who come to ACORN seeking care. He says that working at ACORN sustains him, but if so, it's a mutual sustaining that is going on.

Dr. Dave grew up in Africa without doctors and dentists. When he was 10 years old, a Catholic mission trip to Tanzania was his first exposure to a dentist. He received dental care for the first time and he says that it remained in his mind. This caring nun, working to alleviate pain, made him want to be a dentist and oral surgeon. "I've seen too many people suffering," he says. "I love seeing people. They come in pain and once I've treated them, they give me a hug. They want to see me always."

Throughout his career in England, Africa, and now in the USA, he says he always wanted to do something for the indigent and disabled. "A friend told me of ACORN Clinic in 1989. I don't have a problem with going to help. If people need help, I want to help."

He had a practice in Williston, which he sold in 2007 and he retired in 2011. "I'll be 80 January 1st. I have 20 years to go. ACORN Clinic is my home away from home," he says.

About ACORN, Dr. Dave says he enjoys the comradery of like-minded people. He believes his contribution has been relieving patients of pain. He enjoys giving patients information on how to avoid problems, and educating them about oral health.

"I hope we can still treat the homeless and the destitute, and that the community and state will support it."

It is his purpose in life, caring for those who have nowhere else to turn.