

## July 2016: Dr. Garrish

When you look back at your life it is important to know you have done something that has made a positive impact in the world. For someone like Dr. Lewis Garrish, he has gone far beyond those expectations.

Dr. Garrish began his profession as a dentist by receiving his bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Florida. After teaching high school for three years, he continued his schooling and graduated from the UF College of Dentistry in 1977. Since graduating, Garrish has had a successful career as a dentist that spans over three decades.

"I wanted to do something that helped people and dentistry was a very great way of doing that," he said. "It has been a really great profession for me emotionally and spiritually."

Dr. Garrish was able to further fulfill his passion for helping people after he began volunteering at ACORN Clinic over 20 years ago. He reflected on how important the work being done at the facility is to the people in the community.

"There have been a number of patients who without ACORN Clinic would have not received the dental care they wanted and needed," he said. "We have been able to get these patients out of pain and restore their self-image by helping to improve their smile."

Misook Wise, a dental assistant at ACORN, who has worked with Dr. Garrish for many years further explained the impact ACORN has made on countless patients.

In particular, she described a situation that involved a patient who attempted to extract his own tooth because he was in so much pain and could not go to the emergency room.

"If it wasn't for ACORN he would not have gotten the immediate help he needed," she said.

These stories are why people like Dr. Garrish and Wise are so dedicated to the mission ACORN is trying to achieve everyday.

"We're all given certain gifts and personally I feel like I need to use my gift as long as I'm able to," Dr. Garrish said. "Not using my gifts would be a disservice to the community and myself."

We would like to humbly thank Dr. Garrish for all he has contributed to ACORN Clinic and our mission. You are sincerely cherished and we are grateful for all that you do!

