

Michael Aguirre, DMD, is the ACORN Clinic's August Volunteer of the Month. Dr. Aguirre currently volunteers weekly supervising senior dental students and providing much needed patient services. Before his recent retirement Aguirre volunteered to take ACORN patients in his orthodontics clinic in Gainesville for 28 years. Outside of the ACORN Clinic, Aguirre volunteers at Gainesville Community Ministries (GCM) and West Side Baptist Church with his dental skills.

Aguirre relishes the chance to interact with students. "Everyone's having fun," Aguirre explains, referring to both the staff and students. The most fulfilling part about volunteering at ACORN says Aguirre is the personal enjoyment of giving back. "It's satisfying for me.," says Aguirre. He stepped up his regular



commitment to ACORN and put in extra hours to help keep the clinic going while staff dentist Paayal Bhakta, DMD was out on maternity leave.

Aguirre has been influential in helping to launch Bhakta's new orthodontic program at ACORN. Staff and volunteers at ACORN know Dr. Aguirre by his charming personality, compassion for patients, commitment for volunteering, and the baked goods he brings in every week made by his wife, Lucy, which are always devoured and appreciated by all who partake.

In addition to her skills in the kitchen, Lucy also assists Dr. Aguirre volunteering at GCM and West Side Baptist Church. Aguirre's face lit up when he talked about the 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary they are celebrating this August. "We are going to the beach with our children and grandchildren," Aguirre said. "They're great." That sounds like a well-deserved break for our Volunteer of the Month.