



working together.

Mission

The Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity has many concurrent philanthropic efforts across the globe. These efforts are coordinated through our International Alliance of Alpha Omega Charitable Organizations. The ability to give back to others and help communities in need is the cornerstone of the Alliance's foundation, and as our membership increases, the greater the impact we can have in accomplishing our charitable goals. Those who are not yet members of the Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity will find that it has an impressive record of improving the world through dental health care. Exciting possibilities and great additional value are available to those who wish to become part of our worldwide efforts. If you are interested in participating, please contact us through our Web site, www.ao.org, or through one of our Charitable Organizations in your country.

About Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity

Alpha Omega is the oldest international dental organization, and was founded in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1907. It was originally established to combat anti-Semitism, which was prevalent within both educational institutions and the greater dental community. It now exists as a network of highly accomplished dentists dedicated to improving the human condition by addressing the needs of dental health, education, research, and care worldwide. We currently have chapters and members in cities and dental schools in the United States, Canada, South America, Europe, Israel, South Africa and Australia/New Zealand. Alpha Omega represents about 5,000 active dentists and dental students worldwide.

As an added benefit to membership, Alpha Omega offers the ability for its members to connect in ways that foster communication about career, family, learning, and health. Additionally, it serves as a proponent for peaceful coexistence among peoples of differing backgrounds, races, and creeds, utilizing the commonality of interest in dental health to bring people together.

Alpha Omega Charitable Partnerships

In 1953, the fraternity's leaders recognized a need to replace retiring and aging immigrant dentists in Israel with new generations of well-trained practitioners. In response to this need, Alpha Omega set an extraordinary goal to raise money for the building of Israel's first dental school; and in 1966, with the opening of the Hebrew University Hadassah School of Dental Medicine, founded by Alpha Omega, they realized their dream.

The First Alpha Omega Foundation

Chartered in the US in 1969, the first Alpha Omega foundation was created to continue to support the School and engage in additional philanthropic projects. Subsequently, in 1981, a similar fundraising campaign was mounted to construct The Tel Aviv University Maurice and Gabriella Goldschleger School of Dental Medicine, founded by Alpha Omega. Since the original construction, both schools have



undergone extensive remodeling and additions, with the combined support of Alpha Omegans all over the world, to keep the facilities on the cutting edge of scientific, academic, and clinical advances. Both schools have made, and continue to make, major contributions to the science of dentistry, and to the dental health of the people of Israel.

Foundations with similar missions have been chartered in other countries in order to comply with their local tax laws, Canada (1970), the London Trust (1972), and the Israeli Foundation (1983). The combined international charitable contributions of Alpha Omega's members, chapters, foundations, and trusts over the years are estimated at over 60 million dollars.

THE INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF ALPHA OMEGA CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS

The International Alliance of Alpha Omega Charitable Organization, formed in 2011, was created with the purpose of sharing ideas and information between the existing charitable organizations of the U.S., Canada, London, and Israel. It allows for our Foundations and Trusts to better communicate, reducing duplication of services, and opening opportunities for new giving. Fundraising projects of an international scope are agreed upon and supported, and the synergy created enhances the overall end result. In addition, the Alpha Omega Chapters in France, as well as other countries that do not have formal foundations, participate in the Alliance. We foresee that the Alliance will serve to educate our members as to what is possible in the arena of giving, in both money and with in-kind services, within the realm of our Global Oral Health Initiative (GOHI). We hope that this information encourages the formation of new partnerships and new collaborations with non-member dentists, auxiliary dental caregivers, colleagues in medicine, and those in the medical and dental industry. An excellent example of one of our current partnerships is illustrated by the many successful campaigns and projects in conjunction with the Henry Schein Corporation. They have also been extremely helpful in assisting us with the preparation, printing, and distribution of this brochure, and we thank them for their generosity and their leadership.



Charitable Contributions by Alpha Omega

Prior to the formation of our foundations, charity played an important role in Alpha Omega. As early as the 1930's, our members led efforts to help the less fortunate in need of dental care. Practically every Alpha Omega Chapter adopted programs to help meet the needs throughout the world.

Some of the early and more noteworthy projects were:

- Alpha Omega joined the National Refugee Service in rehabilitating refugee dentists and technicians, and providing dental care for indigent refugees fleeing Europe
- In WWII, over 1800 Alpha Omega members served in the armed forces of the U.S. and Canada (19 gave their lives)
- A welfare fund was established to help returning veterans
- A student loan program was instituted
- Mobile dental 'clinics' were donated to the Canadian Dental Corps and to the U.S. Army
- Campaign to send dental materials and supplies for overseas survivors, shipping them to Europe, Cypress, and other countries to which refugees had fled to escape Nazi atrocities

Outreach to Israel Dental Needs

The following is a list of some of the worthy Israeli institutions that have called on us for help. Our individual chapters, as well as our Alpha Omega Charitable Organizations in the U.S., Canada, London, England and Israel, have answered the call.

- DVI (Dental Volunteers in Israel), treating needy children in Jerusalem – Jews, Christians, and Arabs alike
- A number of facilities for the physically and cognitively challenged children and young adults
- Facilities and programs for homes for disadvantaged and disabled: Luba Slome- Jerusalem Children's Dental Center, Yemin Orde Village, Beit Issy Shapiro Home, Aleh Negev, Meshulash Center for the Aged, Yad L'Kashish- Lifeline for the Aged, Hertzlia Center for the Blind, Yad Sarah, Jaffa Dental Institute, and many more

- Rambam Maxillo Facial Center, caring for victims of the Israeli "war-years"
- Kibbutz Dental program – volunteer dental care in areas that were, at one time, affected by geographic distribution of dentists
- Project Renewal program, aiding projects in new settlements, offering homes for new immigrants
- Miftanim Program
- Beit She-an Free Dental Clinic
- Israeli Army Dental Corps

The Foundations and Trusts have made their marks in helping projects and programs in their respective communities, as listed on an individual basis by country below. Their full annual reports are available on the Alpha Omega Web site at www.ao.org.

ALPHA OMEGA FOUNDATION OF THE U.S.

Dental care is provided by Alpha Omegans for residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities, e.g., Hebrew Home in Washington DC, Gallard Home for the Aged in Seattle, Washington, Los Angeles Home for the Aged, and Detroit's Jewish Dental Care Center. Production of teaching aids, video and hands-on, for caregivers in homes for the aged are also provided.

- Pro bono care for local Holocaust survivors living under low economic means
- American Dental Education Association, Alpha Omega-Leonard Abrams leadership training fellowship
- Scholarship awards have been presented to all the dental schools in the U.S., as well as contributions in support of building projects at multiple dental schools
- Dental research fellowships at Tufts University, the University of Pennsylvania, and New York University
- The National Museum of Dental History in Baltimore, Maryland
- Children's Dental Health Center, Kid's Smiles in Pennsylvania
- Save a Child's Heart Foundation
- Dental care at homes for disadvantaged children
- Annual funding for research programs at both Israeli dental schools

THE ALPHA OMEGA FOUNDATION OF CANADA

The five Canadian chapters, which serve over 1000 members, are located in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, Vancouver, and Calgary. The Canadian Foundation additionally contributes to many of the Israeli projects listed above, as well as the One Family Fund supporting dental care for terror victims. Additional support is granted to many local community projects throughout Canada.

The following are some of the local charities and contributions in time and money supported by the Canadian Foundation and Canadian chapter members:

- Funding of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights
- Funding to the About Face Foundation that assists people with facial deformities
- Contributions to the Jewish Child & Family Services Agency
- Fraters have physically travelled to Israel to volunteer their time in clinics
- Funds are donated to the Canadian dental schools to purchase equipment
- Grants are made annually to the Canadian dental schools and hospitals for the funding of research projects for graduate and postgraduate students
- About one hundred dentists in Toronto participate in volunteer dental care programs at local institutions. They are also actively involved in donating time to raise funds for the United Jewish Appeal.

THE ALPHA OMEGA LONDON CHARITABLE TRUST

London continues to be extremely active, and the Trustees, who represent both the London Chapter and Trust, meet regularly to ensure appropriate and prompt distribution of funds to worthy causes, always creating a positive social impact and ensuring the highest levels of governance. Projects supported by the London Charitable Trust fall into four main areas, harmonizing with the over-arching ethos of Alpha Omega and have included the following:

- **UK Charities:** supporting oral health assessments and dental hygiene programmes for special care residents at Norwood (formerly Ravenswood) and the TreeHouse School at the National Centre for Autism
- **Dental Schools in Israel and the Rambam Medical Centre:** providing equipment and facilities to enhance patient care outcomes, as well as undergraduate, postgraduate and specialty training
- **Overseas Clinics and Charities:** essential funding to improve care and promote oral health to multiple projects in Israel previously listed above. In addition, surgical and medical equipment has also been gifted to Magen David Adom, as well as to both the Poriya and Laniado Hospitals. Further afield, support has been directed toward reducing levels of primary dental disease in Eastern European communities through World Jewish Relief.
- **Prizes and Awards:** the Trustees are very keen to support our younger colleagues who are the future of our profession and of Alpha Omega. In this regard, the following postgraduate prizes



are awarded at Hadassah: The Ino Sciaky Prize in Oral Medicine, The Michman Prize in Prosthodontics and The Murray Woolf Prize in Orthodontics. Closer to home, and in order to increase the local profile and awareness of Alpha Omega, several undergraduate elective scholarships for dental students and postgraduate travel scholarships for specialist trainees are offered each year. In addition, and in association with the Zamet family, the Dr. John Zamet Memorial Prize in Periodontal Research is awarded annually to a postgraduate specialist trainee in periodontology in the UK.

The London Charitable Trust is delighted to work so closely with the London Chapter of Alpha Omega, and to enjoy excellent relationships with so many of our senior colleagues in the dental trade, who are extremely generous supporters of our widening participation and social enterprise initiatives.

Annual reports for the London Charitable Trust are available on the Alpha Omega Web site at www.ao.org.

EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL CHAPTERS

Our other European Continental Chapters do not have a Foundation currently, but their chapters have donated considerable funds to the two Israeli dental schools, as well as many of the charities listed.

FRENCH CHAPTERS

Alpha Omega's French Chapters have consistently made exemplary efforts in raising funds. The Chapters of Grenoble, Lorraine, Lyon, Marseille, Nancy, Paris, Strasbourg and Toulouse have donated considerable amounts of money to the two dental schools as well as a substantial number of man-hours toward local charitable causes. Their reports can be found on our Web site.

ZURICH CHAPTERS

The Zurich Chapter's Members have donated 200 hours for mission trips to the Ukraine, Honduras, and the Africa Mercy ship off Sierra Leone. They also donated funds to purchase a surgical microscope for the Tel Aviv dental school.



ISRAEL CHAPTER

The Alpha Omega Foundation of Israel has targeted the dental needs of Israeli Holocaust survivors. Of the 207,000 Holocaust survivors in Israel, 50,000 live below the poverty line. The Israeli Foundation actively finds funding and volunteers for the provision of free comprehensive dental care for the survivor community. Additionally, the Foundation raises funds annually in support of the two Israeli dental schools.

Our Alpha Omega Students Organization plays an active role and raises funds annually through the sale of items and other projects; they have also donated to Smiles Against Hate, Special Olympics, and student athletic projects for protective mouth guards.

Independent Local Chapters

It is important to also note that even in countries with active foundations, there is ongoing philanthropic activity at the local chapter levels. Independent Local Chapters reach out to the dental needs of their local communities by engaging in community screenings, care for Holocaust survivors, the purchase and implementation of mobile dental clinics, and even an establishment of a Jewish Dental Clinic for the poor. Furthermore, many of our members provide thousands of hours of in-kind services for the handicapped and the indigent in both their private practices and in local community centers.

In the past decade, Alpha Omega sought to give our philanthropic activities a name, and the result is the **GLOBAL ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE (GOHI)**. Every philanthropic act an Alpha Omegan does, whether it is to give a donation for dental health or provide in-kind services, falls within the purview of our GOHI. GOHI also allows us to brand what gives greatest meaning to our existence as an organization, as we seek to improve the human condition by investing in, and providing for, dental health, education, research, and care. A complementary project established by British Alpha Omegan leaders is named the Dental Wellness Trust. This Trust is a dental outreach program which seeks to educate children around the world about dental hygiene and appropriate food choices in maintaining dental health. It also seeks to supply them with the necessary hygiene tools for maintaining dental health.

GLOBAL ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE (GOHI)

Global outreach can easily be seen by these additional Alpha Omega international projects:

- “Dentistry for All”. Alpha Omega members and senior dental students from Calgary, Canada, and Chicago areas travel to Guatemala, where funds have been raised to build a dental clinic and establish an oral health program that was non-existent.
- Jewish Healthcare International aid to Baltic Countries
- Support for the International Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)
- Aid to victims of Soviet uprising in Tbilisi, Georgia
- Establishment of “Alliance for Oral Health Across Borders”. This alliance promotes peace through oral care, and has been joined by over 41 representatives of dental schools and health-related organizations ‘across the globe’! We are proud to be an original charter signer.

There have also been a number of unfortunate incidents to which Alpha Omega has directed emergency help. Some are:

- Victims of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans
- Victims of earthquakes in Haiti
- Devastating fires in the Carmel Forest in Israel
- Relief and rebuilding of rocket damage in Sderot, Israel
- Support for construction of prostheses for wounded veterans

A “Peaceful” Representation of Our Brand

The “Tree of Peace”, designed by Hedva Ser, a UNESCO artist for peace, has become the symbol of Alpha Omega’s philanthropic activity. This tree, like Alpha Omega’s ideals, is rooted on a solid foundation. It is organic and ever-growing. It reaches out to the heavens and forms the Hebrew letter shin, which stands for the word *shalom*, or peace, and also represents the first letter in the Arabic *Salaam*, also peace. On its branch sits a dove, and within the design is the letter chai, meaning life.

As we look toward the future, we strive to make a difference in the lives for whom our efforts touch. The promise of our branded symbol is that we will continue to find ways in which to be a better organization, to grow like the Tree of Peace, and to reach out to those in need. A healthier and more contented world is a more peaceful world. We hope that in sharing our story, you have become inspired to join us in helping the world through dental health care.

In this brief presentation, we could not list all the activities of each Charitable Organization and/or Chapter. This presentation has been prepared as a fixed piece in a folder which allows each local entity to modify content and communicate more specifically and effectively.



Communications materials generously
provided through a grant from



Charitable Organization contacts can be found on the Web site or obtained directly from Alpha Omega International Headquarters listed below.

ALPHA OMEGA INTERNATIONAL DENTAL FRATERNITY

50 West Edmonston Drive Suite 303

Rockville, MD 20852

Web site: www.ao.org • <http://www.ao.org>

Toll Free: 1-877-368-6326 • Fax: 301-738-6403