

In Touch

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10 Years & Going Strong

January 1, 2019. What a special day this was for WHDO and the Maasai Dental Clinic. It marks ten years of successful, sustainable operations to help the Maasai people. Ten years ago on that first day of January, the clinic officially opened for business at Siana Springs, Kenya, next to the Maasai Mara game preserve.

The founders, Ray and Gail Damazo, were on hand to mentor me as the first volunteer dentist and to organize and conduct an all-day celebration on site a few days later that would include hundreds of Maasai folks from the region as well as safari camp lodge workers, dignitaries, employees, neighbors, most of my dental team from Port Hadlock, Washington, and even a couple of our patients from back home who decided to show up during their Africa travels to surprise us that day.



January, 2009 - Grand Opening Celebration

Who would have thought that this nonprofit project, conceived and created through the visionary efforts of the Damazo's from literally half way around the world could have thrived and grown and continued to improve the dental health of natives who live in mud and dung huts.

Well, through the joint efforts of many volunteers, support of the local leaders in Siana Springs, the wonderful staff plus the ongoing nurturing of the founders and the board of directors, all of this has come to pass and the future looks even brighter.



Dr Jim and Pam Libby

Now with Jim and Pam Libby having taken over leadership of the project for the past several years, Damazo's dream continues to expand and to become a greater reality.



William welcoming Damazo's



Clinic Reunion

In October 2018, Damazo's returned to Siana Springs for several days to greet their old friends and to see first hand what had become of their "baby" in the intervening span of time. The reunions with staff were ebullient.

They literally could not quite believe the pristine state of the facility. Enhancements that piggy-backed onto their achievements were the icing on the cake for them.

We planned and conducted an anniversary celebration that reengaged the community leaders and the beneficiaries to remind all of us of the wonderful strides we have made for the improvement of lives in the Mara. We were able to commemorate these past achievements and to recommit to the promise of free dental care, ongoing outreach to spread the gift of better dental health and to improve the lives of the Maasai people. The local people now recognize our Maasai Dental Clinic as a cornerstone of their community. Ray and Gail could not have experienced a more gratifying reunion.



Mpoponge school children entertain at the celebration

As we celebrate this monumental achievement, I am inspired to look ahead to the next ten-year period in the history of the Maasai Dental Clinic. I do so with enthusiastic optimism because of strong dedicated leadership, our healthy financial position due to generous giving by an ever-growing community of supporters, and the ongoing support and appreciation of the Maasai people who I believe will steadily increase their roles in operating and governing this fine institution. Please join us in our quest to add better health for the lives of the Maasai by coming with us to Kenya to have fun while you volunteer your skills, by donating if you can, or simply by following us as we grow, letting us know what you think of the Maasai Dental Clinic and telling others of this unique and inspiring project.

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Milestone Timeline



~1990-2008 Damazos operated mobile clinic along East Africa coast.



2007
Dr. Ray Damazo negotiated a long-term lease with Siana Springs elders for clinic property.



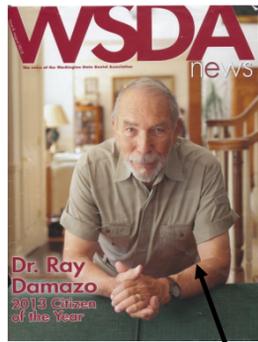
March 2008



Fall 2008
Clinic building was completed.



JANUARY 1, 2009
Clinic officially opened

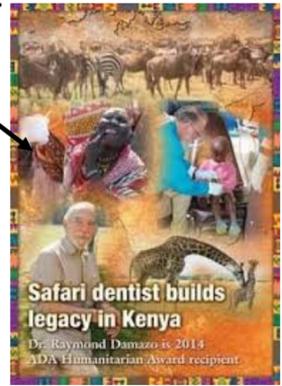


2013
Dr. Ray Damazo was selected as Washington Dentist of the Year by Washington State Dental Association.

2010
William Bareusi was hired as onsite clinic director.



2014
American Dental Association Awarded Dr. Damazo as American Dentist of the year.



2015-2018
Teaching Center was constructed next to the clinic.



2015
Dr. Jim and Pam Libby accepted the leadership role of WHDO.



February 2018
Clinic interior was repainted by volunteer crew and Teaching Center was furnished and put into operation. School outreach program became operational.



October 2018
Dr. Ray and Gail visited MDC to help commemorate 10 years of success.



In Loving Memory of Big Jim Libby
February 15, 1954 - March 10, 2019



*You were bigger than life itself . We stand on your
shoulders to bring our shared vision to reality - a future
Maasai Dental Clinic that will continue to grow and
enable better lives for the Maasai people.*