





## Weathering the Storm

When you enter Esparza Family Dentistry, you are greeted by a friendly woman by the name of Katie Burgis. Katie has worked at our dental office for 6 years. She is the heart of the practice - managing patients, scheduling, insurances, and finances. Katie not only helps patients with appointments and insurance questions, she is always there with a listening, caring ear.

On Saturday October 8th, 2016, hurricane Matthew hit our area. Katie lives in Windsor Woods, near Mt. Trashmore, with her dog, Tyson and cat, Gia. This area was heavily flooded during the storm. Katie, as well as many others, experienced severe property damage and loss. "It was the scariest night", says Katie, "when the flood waters rose 12" in my house". The water not only came in from the exterior doors, but up though the tub drains and toilets making the water toxic. Katie, Tyson, and Gia hunkered down on her bed with no electricity and a dead cell phone, praying for the water to stop rising. Katie was not rescued until the following evening due to high flood waters in her neighborhood. A friend with a large truck barely made it in to save her.

For the next 6 months, Katie endured more struggles. Finding a place to stay while her house was under repair was difficult due to her pets. As a result of this flood, Katie lost clothes, furniture, precious memorabilia, and her vehicle.

Katie is so thankful for her supportive coworkers, family, friends, and patients of Esparza Family Dentistry who helped her immensely. They brought her food, clothes and furniture, as well as emotional support. Little did everyone know that more trials would come her way. One month before she moved back into her home, Katie had a minor stroke at work. While Katie was in the hospital, Tyson fell and broke two ribs.

Today, Katie, Tyson, and Gia have recovered and are back in their home loving life again. As a result of these challenges, Tyson has officially been appointed the Esparza Family Dentistry therapy dog. He meets and greets patients, and even helps cope with dental anxiety by sitting on laps during procedures. Katie is healthy and feels blessed for all the support and items received. Life is good again.

## **Harvest Basket Drawing**

In appreciation for our wonderful patients, we have put together a Fall Harvest Basket, filled with seasonal goodies. Simply stop in or email us and we will enter your name. We will hold the drawing the week before Thanksgiving. Good luck!

## Race for the Cure 2017



## Use It or Lose It

Each year, dental insurance covers certain services, such as preventive and diagnostic care. Often, dental insurance policies cover these appointments at 100%. In addition, you are given a set allowance to cover a portion of restorative services each year. However, if you do not visit the dentist before the end of the year, your dental allowance expires. Your benefits will not carry over to the next year.

Those who have flexible spending accounts can use the accounts to pay for dental expenses, such as deductibles and co-payments. While the accounts often do not cover cosmetic services, they can be used for preventive, diagnostic, and restorative care. However, as with your dental allowance, if you do not use them by the end of the year, they will expire, causing you to miss out on a huge savings opportunity.

Call us NOW for your appointment