

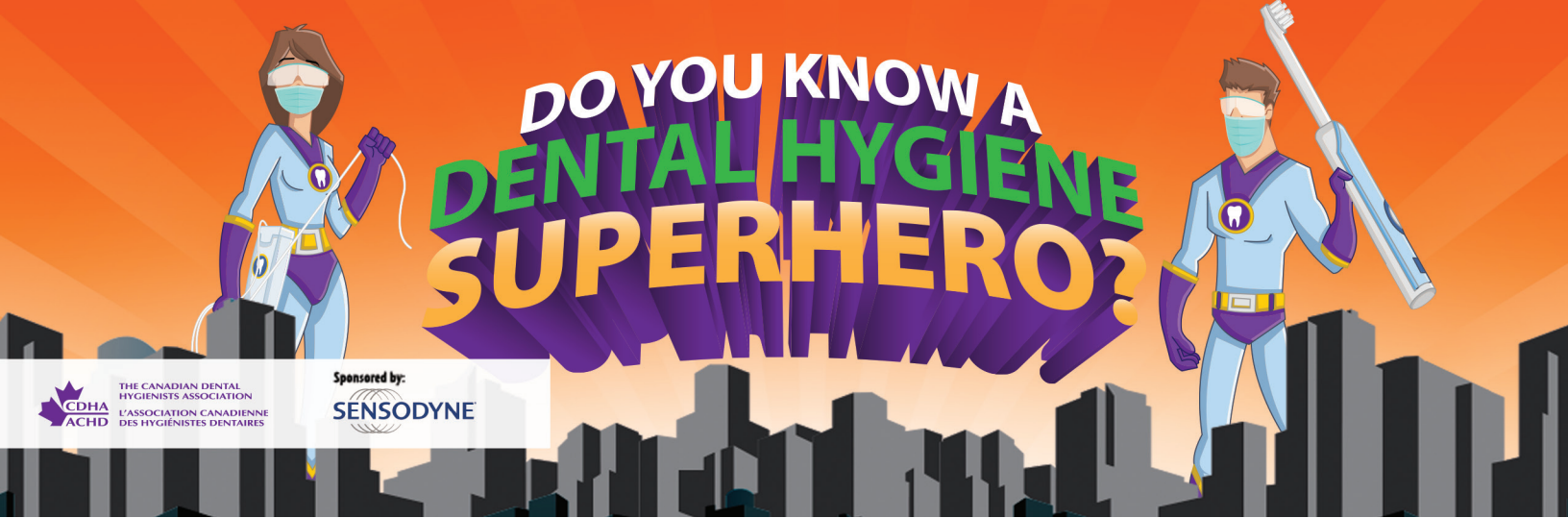
Linda Genovese – 4 nominations

Nominator: Carl Fiamelli

Linda became aware that I had pancreatic cancer and devised a dental care kit for cancer patients who still wanted to see a dental hygienist even during chemotherapy treatments. I asked my chemo doctor when I could get my teeth cleaned. No one at the cancer clinic seemed to have a definitive answer to this question so I talked to Linda and she created a website called Making A Dent to help patients with similar needs. The kit contains a small plasticized info sheet covering 4 topics- Dental Care Prior, During and After Cancer Treatment and Recipes for mouth rinses. The kit has many beneficial items in it such as Pro Namel, Biotene, XyliMelts etc. It truly is a great help to anyone with cancer.

Nominator: Jessica Guyatt

I was at the dentist the other day and overheard a few coworkers and patients talking about a new idea Linda has been trying to kickstart, so I decided to ask them about it. Linda has pitched the idea of creating personal dental packages appropriate for cancer patients. I've had many family members lose their lives to cancer, and I only recently learned that dental health can be seriously affected during treatment and diagnosis of this disease. As Linda is a phenomenal dental hygienist, I think she is the perfect advocate for this kind of challenge. Dental health complications are an issue that is often overlooked by healthcare professionals and the public, especially regarding the adverse effects of cancer and its treatment. I am ecstatic that someone has finally tried to do something about it. This issue needs to be put in the spotlight, and Linda should be holding the mic. Therefore, she is my dental hygienist superhero.



Nominator: Lianna Genovese

Not only is she the most caring and friendly hygienist, but a hygienist who truly makes a difference inside and out of the office. As a patient, she is the only hygienist I have seen who constantly gets greeted with hugs and presents by her patients. No matter who is in her chair, whether it is someone she has known for a long time or had just met, you can always hear laughter from the other room. With every dental visit, her patients might leave with some tooth pain but a jar full of happiness and a new dental hygiene friend. Linda always goes beyond what is an expected of a hygienist. For example, lending a good book to a patient, finding more information for them, and simply always making herself available to help by email. In the office, she creatively organizes and makes posters and games for dental health month. However, Linda has done one incredible thing that sets her apart from every hygienist in Canada. She has started a revolutionary not for profit organization called, "Making a Dent"! After experiencing the recent and sudden loss of her mother from pancreatic cancer, she was inspired to make dental health kits for cancer patients. These kits contain an assortment of donated dental supplies to help cancer patients maintain their oral hygiene. She has written letters to many companies and dental offices asking for donations. Already, in less than 2 months, she has handed out 25+ kits from her own expenses for free. She will also be starting a Go Fund Me Page to raise money as her husband and her travel to Spain to complete the Camino, a 500-mile pilgrimage walk (they will be doing 200km of this walk) in support of her mother and other cancer patients she will help. All these proceeds will go to her startup costs for the organization. Her goal is to hand these kits out to cancer patients in hospitals, dental offices, and requested. Now, all that I have written so far was directed towards my hygienist, however, this incredible hygiene hero is also my mother. I am a McMaster student who comes home every day around 11pm-3am. Every night I see my mom sitting at the kitchen table creating posters, researching things for her patients, and coming up with ideas for Making a Dent. She is an extremely hard worker. Sometimes it pains me to see her come home from a 12-hour shift and go straight to writing dozens of letters to companies. She is a woman who seeks happiness by helping others, a trait that only few have. I hope I have not written too much, believe me when I could write a book series about this woman. This is just the beginning of my story of how Linda is truly a Superhero to those in her office and soon to those in Hamilton and hopefully by 2019/20 in Canada! Thank you so much for taking the time to consider Linda, your friendly neighbourhood dental hygienist and national founder of Making a Dent, the hygiene hero of 2018.

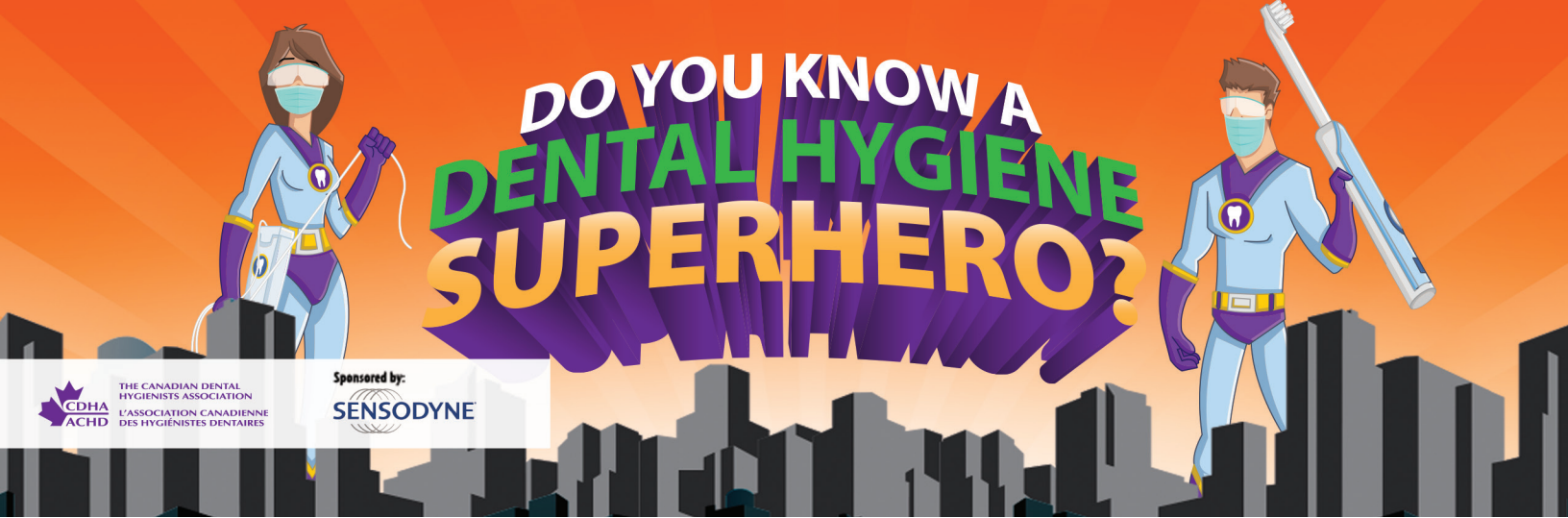


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Nominator: Joanne Guyatt

Linda has been my hygienist for about 20 years. Her friendly, kind approach can only be matched by her superior dental hygiene knowledge and genuine concern for my oral health. She is a great listener and always stays up to date with her oral education, so she can readily give me suggestions to deal with my many oral hygiene dilemmas. However, it's her most current personal project that I am so impressed with. She showed me a sample of her idea- it's a small zip up toiletry bag containing various oral hygiene products to be given free to cancer patients who struggle with cancer related oral issues like mouth sores, bleeding gums, dry lips, and dry mouth. She has made up a few bags and has given them to her forever grateful cancer clients. Unfortunately, the cost for supplies does add up, and I'm sure the prize money could help her with expenses, She is starting off just small right now, but she has spoken to the director of the Cancer Assistance Program (CAP) which is a non-profit organization in our hometown, and she said they were over the moon with the idea, because they get many donations of personal hygiene supplies, but never dealing with oral health. Her inspiration is her mother, Anna who recently died from cancer, and she saw what issues her mother encountered. Linda is a champion in her dental hygiene field and a leader in her community as she takes on this labour of love. Linda is my dental hygiene superhero and that of the community she serves. Thank you.



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