

# The Journal of the Michigan Dental Association

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Volume 105 | Number 8

Article 2

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8-1-2023

## Compassion: It's Needed Now More Than Ever

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### Recommended Citation

Dziurgot, Michelle C. DDS (2023) "Compassion: It's Needed Now More Than Ever," *The Journal of the Michigan Dental Association*: Vol. 105: No. 8, Article 2.

Available at: <https://commons.ada.org/journalmichigandentalassociation/vol105/iss8/2>

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By Michelle C. Dziurgot, DDS  
Editor-in-Chief

# Compassion: It's Needed Now More Than Ever

**C**ompassion. What is it, and why is it needed so desperately in today's world? Compassion is caring for those going through trying times. The world

we live in is seeing fighting between countries, fighting between red and blue political parties, and fighting in our own backyards.

I was attending a Michigan Dental Association Board of Trustees meeting when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. I have ties to Eastern Europe due to my Polish background and felt compassion for the people evacuating. I donated money to several groups to aid in the effort to secure safe passage to Poland for displaced Ukrainians. I am proud of what President Volodymyr Zelenskiy has been doing for his country. He is standing as one with his people. He has not, nor do I see him ever, stepping aside for Vladimir Putin to take over.

Same goes for the division in our own country. Politics is center stage — blue against red. It seems gone is the time we fought together in 1776 to rid ourselves of Britain's rule. Thomas Jefferson used his words to aid in our independence. He had compassion for the colonists. He knew how to harness their voice.

The same goes for our inner circles. We need to be there for our parents, who once took care of us as children, to learn to give up their homes and either move in with us or into assisted living. They need our thoughtful consideration of their wishes. Yes, medical reasons might lead to living arrangements not as manageable, but we should not add strife to the situation by arguing

with our siblings on how Mom and Dad should be taken care of.

Compassion, I say it again, is desperately needed. But argument also is needed. We should not blindly agree with other opinions, but our disagreement needs to be less volatile. Stand with your family; build them up when are down. There is so much hatred and division.

Even in our own profession, we see division in thought between the new graduates and the more seasoned dentists regarding practice modalities. We need to bring together our dental family, no matter the type of office setting — solo, group, large group. Lift each position — patient care coordinator, assistant, hygienist or fellow dentist. I myself have been through difficult times in raising a teenager and being a solo dental office owner. Our son Danny is strong willed and fights me every inch of the way. I know in the end it always works out for him, but I need to allow him to make mistakes and show compassion for his decisions.

My office should be running itself after almost 20 years after opening my door to patients, but there are days I want to throw in the towel. Knowing that I can pick up the phone and call one of you reading this editorial keeps me sane. I thank you for the compassion that I have been bestowed. I will also be there when you need me. ●

**We need to bring together our dental family, no matter the type of office setting — solo, group or large group practice. Lift each position — patient care coordinator, assistant, hygienists, or dentist.**

*Thoughts? Opinions? Why not share your views with other MDA Journal readers? Send comments to Editor Dziurgot at [mdziurgot@michigandental.org](mailto:mdziurgot@michigandental.org).*