

Updates on the Campaign for Mercury-Free Dentistry: FDA Admits Mercury Is Toxic An Interview With Charlie Brown By Dr. Joseph Mercola

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Welcome, everyone. It's Dr. Mercola helping you take control of your health. And today, we have the honor and privilege of reconnecting with Charlie Brown, who is the founder of Consumers for Dental Choice. And he's here to give us an update in what is new with removing mercury. He has been so successful in his past endeavors and commitments to removing mercury, which is a potent neurological toxin, from the dental system. And it's been a battle. He's really persevered, and thanks to his diligence and his commitment and his networking skills, he's been able to really provide some powerful attacks at eliminating this poison from our dental system. So he's a real pioneer and warrior, and we're just honored and fortunate to have him with us and he's going to give us an update. So welcome and thank you for joining us today.

Charlie Brown:

Oh Dr. Mercola, it's great. It's great. You are our champion. You're the one that promotes us better than anybody, that supports us better than anybody. And this has gone on for more than a decade. We're deeply grateful to you.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Well, it's a noble cause. It's so difficult to treat many diseases and the old age adage is “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” And certainly, removing mercury before it causes damage is a wise strategy. And that's what we seek to do with collaborating with you, with your team.

Charlie Brown:

Okay. You're so right. I mean I just admired medicine. This is it. Maybe because the money is so much in treating disease, treating symptoms, but the toxins are just a disaster. You've just pointed to the need to have natural remedies starting with first, the free remedy of the sun. You're not promoting your products. You're promoting the things that get people healthy, strategies, exercise, the right diet. And look, the toxins are truly murderous, and more people, huge numbers of people worldwide in the United States die directly from what I'll call pollution, which is toxins in the air, toxins right in our body. And one of the huge culprits since the Civil War has been dentistry, the dentists who continue to put mercury in the mouth. It's great there are courageous dentists that stood early in this fight.

Charlie Brown:

When we started, only 3% of the dentists, this is before the start of the century, that 3% of the dentists were mercury free and they were told to keep their mouth shut. That's how I got into this, being their lawyer and raising their constitutional right to talk, continue to tell the truth to patients, but those dentists are great. There's so many of them now that are mercury-free. I mean,

the pro-mercury faction of dentists is beating a retreat and they're going to lose. But what that means is the focus on toxins, toxins in the body that we've got to stop. Mercury is as bad as any of them, and you've been on the forefront of that. Thank you, sir.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

So, and you alluded to the fact that you were indeed an attorney and not just any attorney. You were the attorney general for, was it Virginia?

Charlie Brown:

West Virginia, yes I was.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

And you revectoring your efforts to this cause. So you're not just any old activist. You're a well-trained professional who's committed his life to this purpose. And before we dive into the updates, I'd like to just reemphasize one of the points we're doing this, because as a physician, I would see many people in my practice who were suffering from mercury toxicity. And they had loads of amalgam fillings, like I did when I was growing up. My parents didn't know any better. And I was eating loads of processed foods and plenty of desserts. It wasn't a meal that had gone by that I don't think I had a dessert and I didn't know any better. I was a kid.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

And it took me a while to become educated, understand that this was not a good strategy, but as a result I had, at least half of my teeth were filled with mercury fillings. And I actually saw the light in the mid-'90s, saw a 60 Minutes documentary which exposed this. It was pretty much a classic. Unfortunately I was ahead of the curve because the dentist I chose to have my fillings removed was BC, beyond clueless, had no idea that there were precautions that were needed to do this. And as a result, I suffered, I still suffer to this day, signs of the mercury toxicity, which damaged my kidneys, because I had just so much of an assault going out at once. So along those lines, if it happened to me, it can happen to you. So the key point is this strategy is to eliminate mercury so it doesn't affect anyone in the future.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Now that may not be yourself, or it might be your kids. It might be your grandkids, but eventually that's our goal. But what I want to address now is people like me who had these mercury fillings, and I want you to highlight some of the strategies, maybe point to some of the resources they can seek out because it's so crucial to find a dentist who knows what they're doing, because if they don't, you're going to get harmed or damaged. You just don't simply remove these fillings. It has to be done with great caution and care to make sure that the mercury doesn't go into your system and damage.

Charlie Brown:

You say your parents didn't know, you didn't know, nobody knew. The American Dental Association.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

No, no, no. That's not true. There were some enlightened individuals.

Charlie Brown:

I'm sorry. Yes, there were enlightened individuals, but they were told there was this what I called the mercury triangle, the barrier, the American Dental Association called them silver fillings, intentional, because gold fillings are made of gold, so silver fillings must be made of silver. The dental boards enforced it with its gag rule, so very few dentists would speak out. Some of them were shut down for speaking out somewhere. Some evaded it, but had to fight. And so the early dentists couldn't talk much about it. And those that could, could get punished and the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) was absolutely silent. So there really was, among the three organizations you would think would stand for this, the state dental board's supposed to protect you, not the dentist, the American Dental Association was supposed to represent a profession, but it really just represents products in the way it advocates for them and advocates for the status quo and the FDA.

Charlie Brown:

The dental schools were no help then. They simply weren't teaching advanced dentistry. They were teaching amalgam, drill, fill and bill. It's like a trade school, the way that dental schools operated, and some of them still do. So it was a huge barrier to get past. And the retreating continues because the word, but the word mercury was never used. Now, it's used, now it's used. It's used all the time. It's used in state laws. There's a whole treaty about mercury. Amalgam's in that treaty. So the awareness is just so much greater than it was, Dr. Mercola, and we want to make sure it's universal. And then we've got to circle back to these bureaucracies in other places, dental clinics, insurance companies that try to hold the line and want amalgam to exist for yet another generation.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Well, I was hoping that you'd be discussing the list of resources you have on your site and we'll probably include in this article, which is how to find dentists who understand these principles and not only understand it, but are trained so that they can remove the toxin.

Charlie Brown:

Absolutely, yes sir. You can go to our website.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

There are three or four organizations that dentists can be members of.

Charlie Brown:

Absolutely, and we have our own website, ToxicTeeth.org, and that does list dentists. You can go to websites, the dental training, IABDM, HolisticDentist.org. There are websites that list dentists where you can get information about finding a dentist. And I say, you can go to our website, ToxicTeeth.org. We've got a list by state. You can certainly write me. And I hope you'll put it on your screen, Charlie@ToxicTeeth.org. We certainly will welcome inquiries and direction because people do need to find the right dentist. I mean, the dentist that put in this amalgam are never the ones to take it out. You want to go to a trained dentist that is so fearful of

its toxicity, that they never put it in. And when they take it out, they're very careful about this stuff. And it shouldn't come out of everybody. There has to be a medical evaluation to determine how dangerous it is coming out and how to make sure that the exposure is de minimis when it is taken out.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Okay. Well, thanks for reviewing that because it is an important part of the strategy. We're hoping to help the people that we're seeking to support our efforts to continue this effort. So I thought that would be most important to support them first, so they can understand this and really make a philanthropic contribution to the future of their children or their grandchildren so they don't have to deal with this mess when they're adults.

Charlie Brown:

And we do and the dentists, yes.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

So along those lines, it's been a year since our last conversation. So what happens in a year? And we're all excited to hear what the updates are.

Charlie Brown:

Oh, yes, sir and Dr. Mercola, the big one is that we achieved an incredible goal at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. They broke their silence. They issued recommendations on September 24, 2020, a year ago, saying that amalgam is high risk, high risk for – this is a third to a half of all Americans, all children, all women who are pregnant and breastfeeding or planning to become pregnant, sensitivity to mercury, kidney disease or kidney problems, a neurological disease, any of these categories, and you know they're broad. The kidney disease doesn't mean you're getting dialysis. It means you have kidney problems. Young women planning to be pregnant, they don't mean next week, next month, this year, they mean planning to become pregnant. That mercury would stay in their body. So the FDA really stood up. Now there were recommendations, but they came about from a real concerted three-year plan we had.

Charlie Brown:

We've gone quite international starting, and with your help, you helped us put together an entire international campaign. And Americans and Canadian sometimes say, "Well, how come you're helping all over the place?" And the answer is it circles back. When we met with the Director for the Center for Devices [and Radiological Health] in 2018, the topic A was look what the European Union has done. And what they had done is ban amalgam for children under 15, pregnant women and breastfeeding women. The European Union was so far ahead of the United States in protecting people from amalgam. They realized they had to act. Now the European Union acted because of our campaign. We've got a campaign there since 2011 to change things and they are in the process. There's a lot of steps to go. I can get into that. Italy this past year, Dr. Mercola, I believe that's your ancestral home. They phased out amalgam. Yes, they're the biggest country in Europe to do that. Some of the smaller ones like Moldova, Sweden, Norway, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Finland, Ireland, all those had done it, but Italy's a major country in the

European Union, major country in Europe and the first Mediterranean nation to end amalgam. So these kinds of steps reverberate, because if they're not safe in Italy, they ain't safe here either.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

That's great. I'm glad the Italians finally caught on and implemented it. So I'm wondering-

Charlie Brown:

Ahead of us.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Yeah. Well, we've got a lot more political barriers, but I'm wondering if you thought you would achieve the, or ever see the day where the FDA would admit those statements?

Charlie Brown:

Well, it was something because we've had to battle them and we've gone a number of routes, including a lawsuit. I won a lawsuit. I thought that would decide things, but they didn't. I won the case in court, but won later on when they did their rule. But that was earlier. We did the whole international campaign, still doing it, but we got a treaty, which the U.S. ratified. And then we brought it home.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

But the treaty was an international treaty, was it?

Charlie Brown:

Sure it was, Minamata-

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

United Nations?

Charlie Brown:

Yes, under the United Nations Environmental Program supervises it. They have a secretariat. It became a legally binding in 2017 once 50 countries had ratified. Now over 100, 130, I think have ratified. Every major country's ratified already and many smaller countries. And so now it's enforced – it mandates phasing down in use, phasing down. Our battle in 2022, Dr. Mercola, will be at that conference when they reconvene. The Minamata Convention convenes every year or two. They'll convene 2022 in Indonesia. And there is an amendment proposed by the entire Africa region, all the countries in Africa to phase out amalgam. The European Union has proposed phasing and ending it on a date certain for children, pregnant women, breastfeeding women. So we have two great proposals to shift the focus of amalgam from phase down in many countries, phasing down or phasing out like Italy, like the Philippines, like Nepal, like Moldova or like New Caledonia.

Charlie Brown:

They're phasing it out, but this would do it for everybody, and that's going to be the titanic battle. So we had that treaty and we've brought it home to America, and began in 2018 a new campaign at the FDA. We enact – we put together the Chicago Declaration announced in Chicago. Your staff came and filmed it at the University of Illinois School of Public Health, Chicago. We did a petition. Over 80,000 people signed a petition to ban amalgam for children. I bet some people who were watching us today did that. And I want to thank each of you for stepping forward and doing that and continuing to engage with FDA. So with the petition and Chicago Declaration, FDA met with us. We had a meeting of 15 of his staff, 15 I brought in on-person and probably 15 more on-phone from around the country participating.

Charlie Brown:

And they listened. They started efforts. We had a second meeting with them. They announced a scientific committee to reconvene, which was November of 2019. We had a third meeting after that. At that committee meeting, the advisors to the FDA led by physicians like yourself said FDA has to stop its silence. FDA has to get the mercury information to every consumer and FDA has to, in particular, protect the vulnerable like children and those that are overexposed to toxins. They started listing action. So it took FDA six more months. We had continued interaction with them. We were writing them, giving them information. They were asking us, and by September, 2020, they unveiled their recommendations. So that was a three year battle. It's not over. It is a recommendation. The federal bureaucracies, the dental schools are not jumping up with joy or not shifting like they should, so we've not let up at all.

Charlie Brown:

We've put together a new team starting January, 2021 who has gone back to the federal government and said, "You need to get these bureaucracies like the Pentagon, the Indian children, the prisoners, the families of soldiers and sailors and airmen. All these people need to make sure that they Medicaid families, that they do not continue to have mercury fillings. We're not going to let a two-tier system emerge like it has started, which is mercury-free for those of us in the middle-class and mercury for those that often get left behind. They're not going to get left behind with our movement. We are empowering people. I had a meeting with-

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

I know we are.

Charlie Brown:

I had a meeting with African women, and one African-American woman was in the meeting, but 10 of them. And we just said, let's form a committee, the African Women Leaders Committee. It was NGO, people that work in nonprofit groups. And I work with them. And I know all of them that I brought on to this group, and I'm sending them a book about this successful UN official from Zimbabwe that just wrote her memoirs and now has started a group on gender equity. And these are the kinds of things I said, "This is your network." What should we do? I said, "So you decide this. I brought you all together, women from the South, North, East, Western Africa, and now you can start figuring out how to push your empowerment." So this is great. This is such a great opportunity to find people and connect them and then get results.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

I agree. Yeah, and just a reminder too, the reason that we have a discussion in the first place is largely a result of the choices we are making in our food. And as I alluded to earlier, my parents were clueless. And certainly I was when I was growing up and many people in this country, not many, there's no doubt in my mind, the majority are. So the reality is that if you were eating the optimal diet free of processed foods, processed sugars, and vegetable or seed oils, you probably wouldn't have any tooth decay, and there would be no need for any type of filling, mercury or otherwise. So I just want to remind people of that simple fact, because I remember when I was in practice, that there are certain cultures like Koreans who, and it may be the stats, but I thought it was like under 1% or 2% of the population had even one dental cavity. So it's pretty extraordinary what you can do when you're eating the right food. So just-

Charlie Brown:

Traditional diet means no cavities. I'll give you a story of that. I'm in Lagos, Nigeria, the largest city in Nigeria. I'm sitting at a table at the front with the chief dental officer of the country and a whole room of dentists and others, consumers, a whole conference for mercury-free dentistry for Nigeria in 2014. And we are almost there in Nigeria. It's the largest country in Africa. But at that conference, Dennis started to stand up and say, "How come we have so many more cavities in Lagos than in the north?" Lagos is the developed city. It's the urban center. It's the middle-class. The north is poverty, if you will, low income, but traditional diet, how come we have all this?

Charlie Brown:

And they couldn't figure it out. The chief dental officer handed me a note with two words on it to explain what was going on. And the two words were-

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Processed foods.

Charlie Brown:

Pretty close, Western diet, same thing, same thing all at once. It's fun to eat the Western. It's fun for the Africans, for the Asians, for everybody, I get the processed food. It's fast. It has a lot of sugar. It's fun and it's awful. And yes, you're absolutely right. The cavities come when they process food and the Western diet or whatever word you want to use comes, but it was just like, I just started laughing and she just looked at me and I said, "Doctor, you are so right." She was.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Yeah. Well, thank you for sharing that contemporary anecdote, which is really a reflection of what Weston Price was his research from a century ago. He went all around the world. He was a dentist and a really prominent dentist. I think he was head of the American Dental Association, I believe, and really did pioneering work by establishing that thesis, that countries that were eating unprocessed foods and non-Western diet really had little to no dental decay.

Charlie Brown:

They're healthier. They're healthier, not just their teeth, everything. They're healthier because they're eating traditional diet.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

So it's important to understand that the reason we're doing all this craziness is because this is all Band-Aid, symptomatic relief for poor choices we made earlier in life. Now, ideally with your kids, with your grandchildren, you can educate them to make good choices so that they don't have to have any dental decay, because it's really not necessary. Not only is it costly to expose you to just inconveniences and hassle and expenses and a lot of challenges. It's just unnecessary if you're making the right choices.

Charlie Brown:

Yeah, yeah. Well, your newsletter keeps giving that information to people, diet and exercise and so on.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

We've kind of revector to what I perceive a more pernicious threat and a certainly more pervasive one, which is this push to get a needle in every arm of this bioweapon that they call a COVID jab. So our new strategy, because I mean, it doesn't do much good to be eating the right food if you're dead from a bioweapon. So we've had to revector our strategy to help educate people about it's like an emergency medicine. You got to triage when someone's coming in with a gun wound to the abdomen or the chest, they're a higher priority than a person who has a laceration on their arm or their hand. And so that's what we've been doing, but let's get back to the mercury. So what do you think the next step is for the progression in transitioning the FDA's recommendation to something more impactful and legally binding?

Charlie Brown:

Well, first we've got to make sure the recommendations take effect. The legally binding is a long process, and it's a lot of layers. The Center for Devices at FDA explained to me that they could do recommendations because they wouldn't have to take it to the top of FDA, to the top of Health and Human Services, to the Office of Management and Budget, all these places. And the Capitol Hill is taking shots at them and so on, they could just do it. So we want to make those recommendations so effective that then the ban, which we will work for, will be a much more palatable, accepted step because the recommendations are so closely followed. And so our campaign this year in the United States is focused on changing the dental school. Some dental schools have already ended amalgam use. We have polled the dental school deans.

Charlie Brown:

Some use it sparingly. We're not sure exactly what they mean by that sometimes, but some don't use it at all. They're done with the amalgam. So that is huge, but we need to change the dental schools in the future. We need to change the federal bureaucracies, and that is so they stopped giving dental care to Indian children and the list I was giving you, the soldiers and sailors and airmen and so on. So we've got to end that. We've got to do the consumer empowerment and to FDA's credit, and we pushed for this. As soon as those recommendations were out, we said, "Nobody reads something that complicated." So FDA came out with infographics. First, they

came out with a whole infographic in English explaining high risk, big pictures, children, young women, kidney, neurological, mercury-sensitive, explaining it. Then they came out with it in Spanish and a moment Dr. Mercola, [[Spanish 00:23:30](#)].

Charlie Brown:

That is a reach. We reach our Spanish-speaking, English-speaking people with these infographics. We're working with consumer groups. We're working with children's groups. So the recommendations need to get into the clinics, need to get into consumers' hands and need to change the bureaucracy. And that is this year's campaign because FDA is not going to go farther until we make sure the recommendations were. Something else FDA did at our pushing was they asked for guidance on how to do better, how to do more than the infographics. They asked that about all their products, but we made sure, thanks to the help of your team there in Cape Coral, pushing the issue out too, that more people commented on our issue than any others and explained to FDA, "Put this one at the top of your pile when you're talking about devices this medical device is the most important to address."

Charlie Brown:

So we think through consumer empowerment, dental schools, changing the federal bureaucracies, all these steps that are moving is to shift amalgam. Remember, amalgam use has ended among large categories of Americans. If I get on an airplane, Dr. Mercola, and I tell somebody what I've done for the last six or eight years, not one person, the same thing, every single person says the same thing, almost exactly the same words. They don't use that anymore. And the answer is that's right. They don't use it for those of us that get on airplanes, the upper middle class, traveling people that do business all over the country or whatever. They don't do it on us anymore. They do it on other people. And we've got to stop it for all. So we know we've made strides. We know the use is a lot less, but we're going to not let two-tiered dentistry emerge.

Charlie Brown:

And that is the campaign now. I do believe we can circle back to a ban, but that ban may come from on high. That is international. It may come through our battle in the conference of the parties, the fourth conference of the parties instead of here at the FDA. And remember, the more we put the heat on and the FDA and Canada – Canada had guidelines back in the 1990s, Health Canada guidelines. It was almost the same as FDA. They were buried by the dental establishment in Canada. They are back. They're back on the front burner because of what FDA did. The synergies of what we're doing are affecting here and there in one country, it comes back to ours. What we do in Maine, it does affect things in Wisconsin and so on. So we have a great team. We put this team together, brick by brick over the years, and we have the energy to win. And we have a single mission, our organization. That's why we hope people will donate. We are a single mission organization to end amalgam. And by that focus and the experience that I bring, we're here in Washington, DC. We're here where the government is, where we can have the most pressure and the most efficient pressure. We are efficient. We are effective. We have a track record, but we need the help of the American and Canadian public to see this through.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Yes, indeed. So what are your plans for this year? What's your goals and objectives?

Charlie Brown:

Yes. Thank you very much. Let's just go to Europe for a minute because the European Commission last year, another achievement, and over the past year, they decided that they will recommend the end of amalgam for children. Now, the European Union, it's complicated, but they're doing a decision for 27 countries. That's huge. And they said, some countries have jumped out front like Italy I mentioned and Ireland, but Germany has not yet jumped out, France, Poland. There's more to go. The commission, which is the agency's recommended amalgam be phased out in the middle of 2020s, they now have to go to parliament. So next year we will have the battle in European parliament. We had the battle in 2016, got the law that protects the children, the pregnant women, the breastfeeding women, and set in motion everything else, including this commission decision. So we believe in 2022, we will see the fight in parliament, European parliament, 27 nations, 700-some members on whether we will get an end to amalgam.

Charlie Brown:

We're optimistic because we've had success in the parliament, but it's a complicated battle. We issued this past year, the bond declaration, bond Germany, the bond declaration for mercury-free dentistry for Germany. That's had a huge impact. In fact, the leading newspaper in Germany, the Frankfurt Paper, everybody calls it FAZ for the German words, wrote a story and called amalgam, the headline was "Amalgam Aus," "Amalgam Out, Amalgam Out." And they said, amalgam is the brown coal dentistry, the brown coal, C-O-A-L, of dentistry. That's how they're saying. It's just got to go, in other words. You just can't do this anymore. And so we're seeing that kind of progress in Europe. At the convention, the Minamata Convention, as I mentioned, we will have, I lead the campaign internationally. I'm the president of the World Alliance for Mercury-Free Dentistry. We have regional centers we've created to make sure this campaign's going everywhere.

Charlie Brown:

The regional center for Asia is in Dhaka, Bangladesh. For Europe, it's in Berlin. For Latin America, the headquarters is in Montevideo. For Africa, the headquarters is in Abidjan. It's now in Yaoundé, while our other leader is in scholarship, Yaoundé and Nairobi. We have an Arab Center for Environmental Health based in Beirut. We have campaigns going everywhere. So let's bring that back to North America. What that means is for North America, we have a real momentum. The Health Canada guidelines are back, and the health government of Canada needs to follow them, including for First Nations people, which they're not doing. They think of First Nations people as so cavalierly, they just think they ought to have mercury fillings, the Indian, what we call the Native American or Indian children. They say First Nations.

Charlie Brown:

And in the U.S., it means these FDA recommendations need to be pushed from FDA. They're going to push harder. We're pushing them to push harder. We're working to change the federal agencies, change the dental schools and make sure, and get the consumers push, get the consumer. But Learning Disabilities Association of America is pushing this real hard. They're in most states in the union. They have a big national organization. Those kinds of groups are

educating their members to say no to mercury fillings and push the dentists or change dentists. I know that's hard. If you're a prisoner, if you're a soldier, a sailor, or you're on Medicaid, you probably can't choose your dentist. You're an Indian, you just can't, but you can push that dentist and push hard because people have got to do that. I know it's not easy because those of us that are more middle class can just change dentists. But those who get institutional dentistry need to push back too, and we'll help you. We'll help you push back.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Well, that's a noble goal. I certainly deserve that effort. I mean, no one should be exposed to a neurological toxin and poison. They just shouldn't be. I mean, that's just criminal. So I'm glad you're making efforts to protect those who they have not much of a voice themselves because of their circumstances.

Charlie Brown:

And they don't. But fortunately dentists are much more emboldened. They were told to be quiet. They're not told to be quiet. Half the dentists in America don't use amalgam. I mean, amalgam is a primitive pre-Civil War pollutant. It has been surpassed in technology. It's just these dental groups and these insurance companies and these government bureaucracies think we can hold onto it. It's a nice, easy profits for us. The waste industry at the Minamata Convention is horrible. Why? Because they want amalgam. The more waste, the more money for them. So we have pushback, but we have an incredible team internationally and nationally. And with the help of the American people continuing, we're going to see this through. I mean, I've been at this two decades because I decided this was my mission, moving from politics and private sector, then private sector into nonprofit work.

Charlie Brown:

And we can see it over because the dentists are changing, the public is changing. The government is changing and we can't let it stop in the middle, like it did like say the Health Canada guidelines. They looked like they succeeded, but they didn't see it through. Now we have the Friends of the Earth Canada, an outstanding international environmental group. This is the Canada chapter running our campaign up there. We're very optimistic there. We started campaigns in Mexico and Brazil this year. We are much more active in the Americas than we ever have been.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

That's terrific. So I'm just curious. I'm thinking back, it's been about 10 years since we've been collaborating, I believe.

Charlie Brown:

It is 2011, you did matched funds and it went through the roof. We raised \$50,000. I'd never thought we could raise nearly that much. And your associate, Steve Rye, your chief executive, keeps saying he kept upping it. You kept upping it, Dr. Mercola, \$75,000, we can't do it, \$100,000 and then say, like raise \$100,000. So we did. So now you're, I believe it's \$150,000. I'm not sure. I think that's what, we're going to bleed you, Dr. Mercola, you obviously make money with supplements, but you give so much back. You fund these causes, you fund research,

you fight the government and that's not cheap. I know you have to have lawyers to do it. You have to have staff to do it. I mean, these are all, you didn't take the easy road.

Charlie Brown:

You didn't say, "I'm going to sell products and put the money in the bank." You decided you were going to change the country, change the world in terms of diet, in terms of keeping toxins out of all different uses of any way that they're coming in to people. And it's fabulous. And obviously we've benefited. We could not have put together the World Alliance for Mercury-free Dentistry. We could not put together our multifaceted U.S. campaign without you being our chief funder. And we're grateful that you will match the funds of the donors during the Mercury Awareness Week, the matching funds week for consumers for dental choice.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Well, I'm thankful I can do it really. It's a great privilege and opportunity. It occurs to me that if you're just thinking about this lightly and not really reflecting in it much that you think, well, eventually people are going to wake up. The government is going to get it, and they're going to take mercury out. No, that's not the way life works. It takes committed individuals to push this through because there's so many vested interests that are counter to that. So I'm just delighted to see the fruit of your efforts over the last 20 years, in the 10 years since we've been working with you. But I remember really clearly when you came to the first meeting in Chicago and it was a, I think it was at [inaudible 00:34:47].

Charlie Brown:

It was the Health Freedom Expo. That used to be in Schaumburg, I think.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

No, I know it was in Schaumburg, but we actually had a meeting before, you and Barbara Loe Fisher and Paul Connett and Ronnie Cummins. We had a dinner. And I remember you flew in and you were in a hotel and the hotel really wasn't too far from the restaurant, but well, it was a mile or two. And you didn't even take a taxi at that time, because Uber and Lyft didn't exist. You just walked over because you wanted to save those funds for your organization. And it's a small thing, but to me, it's a big thing because it shows your commitment and your integrity, and you're just very frugal with your funds. You don't waste them. And that's really a major concern when you're donating. I mean, is it so easy to be frivolous and just go and abuse the donations, but your organization does not. Every penny counts.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

So that's why I'm happy to support and endorse and match the funds that those of you are willing to do. And please, if you donated in the past, just listen to this dialogue and what your funding has allowed Charlie to do in his efforts, and go out on your behalf and really make a dent in the world for good, to protect people from this pernicious and pervasive neurologic toxin. So you can be thankful that you've committed to the right place and doing some good in the world.

Charlie Brown:

Thanks for what you're doing. And yes, the mission is something we can finish. It's single purpose. We've got the team. I do have the experience as a lawyer and former state attorney general. And I've got tremendous people we work with around the United States, in Canada, in the Americas, around the world. And they're committed people and you find these people, we had to seek them out. I say, we had to build this team brick by brick, but we built it and we're ready to go. We're ready to win here. We're ready to win in Europe. We're ready to win in the Minamata Convention, a conference that convenes next year in Indonesia.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Yeah, and countries around the world. I mean you've really pretty much captured the entire continent of Africa and have them on board to this commitment, which is just phenomenal, a whole continent.

Charlie Brown:

Yes, the whole continent is supporting a phase out. Let me tell you about Tanzania. They issued guidelines two years ago, the Tanzania guidelines and that ends amalgam over a three-year period. We're now in the second year of that, one to go, three-year period much broader than Europe now, for children, all children, not just under 15 and all women of childbearing age, period.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

That's more than half the population.

Charlie Brown:

Now, the per capita income of Tanzania before the pandemic, and I looked it up, is \$995 per year, per year. This is a question of willpower. This is not a question oh, you got money. You can go mercury now. It's just a question. That's an incredible government. We have a great NGO there, Agenda, Doris [inaudible 00:38:02], its director runs our campaign there, not as director. And we put together those guidelines. We do finance the coming together of the chief dental officers.

Charlie Brown:

They have to have conferences. Their government doesn't have that kind of thing, but no money goes to the government. We do just fund this NGO and a sister NGO. They work with the consumer society and they actually have this in motion plan that in 2023, amalgam is over for the most vulnerable people, all children, all women. Now, if you're a male child, a boy, you grow up to become a man, you weren't getting it before, why would you want to get it? If you're a woman who doesn't get it at 20, 30, 40, why would you get it at 50? The point is it's going to end amalgam, and they're ready to do it. Their government's ready. Their consumers are ready. The dental association, dental associations outside of the Western ones, Dr. Mercola, work with us. I've sat and had at a soft drink or a Coke with, I don't drink Cokes, with soft drink or water with the president of the Nigeria Dental Association, the executive secretary of the Bangladesh association, the executive, the president of the Tanzania Dental Association, the president of Indonesia Dental Association, the president of the Vietnam Dental Association.

Charlie Brown:

All those people I've met with over years, they want to end amalgam. They're not like the American and Canadian group, which is just tied into the money and the protectionism and the insurance and all the cash flows. They want to help their people. So when you get outside of the west, actually the barriers are probably less. You'd think they'd be more. No, they're less, but we're breaking down the barriers right here too in the good old U.S.A. And you've helped it. And we hope everybody listening will at least consider helping us. And if you have questions, put my email on the screen, email address on the screen, go ahead and write us. And if you want to look us up, we're at www.ToxicTeeth.org, and please do look us up. And if you want to find a dentist, click "find a dentist" on there. As Dr. Mercola said, you need a dentist to make sure amalgam doesn't go into your mouth and you need a dentist to advise you on if and how to remove the amalgam fillings, if that's what you should do.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

Yes, indeed. So I want to extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation for those of you who have participated and supported Charlie in the past. It means a great deal to me and to him and all the people that you have no idea that you're impacting with this down the road. And many of them not in the United States, it's an international effort. So you should be proud that you were able to participate in this effort, and we encourage you to reconsider your support for this noble agenda, really, to remove this toxic poison from the dental environment. And Charlie, as you heard has a long track record of many successes, and just getting the point to the FDA to finally admit in its recommendation that mercury is toxic and should be avoided in all these different populations. So it's a great success. Lots more to go, but we're making effort and progress.

Charlie Brown:

Momentum's ours with what FDA has done. It's the game-changer for American dentistry, the biggest change in dentistry ever. And FDA did it. Give them credit.

Dr. Joseph Mercola:

All right. Well, thanks again, Charlie. We appreciate everything you're doing and I'm sure this year and next year will be a fantastic success again.