

The Minnesota Dental Foundation (MDF) offers financial support and in-kind services for outreach programs that meet the mission of the MDF by providing dental services to underserved populations, by promoting dental health initiatives, or by supporting dental profession career and volunteer opportunities. The focus is on providing resources that will make lasting improvements in the oral health of Minnesotans and enhance the dental profession in the state.

Each year the MDF Board of Directors reviews applications for grants that fit these criteria. Support for programs and oral health initiatives may change each year based upon issues facing the dental profession, but the core principle of benefiting the underserved remains constant. Since 2001, the Foundation has awarded \$5,600 in grants to fund 12 oral health initiatives, the first full year of the MDF granting funds to Give Kids a Smile projects.

2003 Recipients

In 2003, MDF gave \$5,500 in cash to 11 projects. All of the funded programs help increase access to care for underserved populations.

Give Kids a Smile

The following community clinics received funding and/or in-kind support for the two-day charitable program in February that provides free preventive and restorative dental care to children from low-income families. Grant monies help defray the costs for dental supplies and oral health education materials for the children. In 2003, approximately 4,500 children were seen in 60 community clinics and private dental offices and the services were provided by 200 volunteer dentists.

Apple Tree Dental - Hawley
Hibbing Dental School Satellite Clinic
Houston County Public Health
Lake Superior Community Dental Clinic, Duluth
Minneapolis District Dental Society & Sharing and Caring Hands
Minnesota State University - Mankato, Madelia Satellite
NIP Uptown Community Clinic, Minneapolis
Normandale Community College Hygiene Program, Bloomington
Northwest Technical College, Bemidji
Salvation Army Good Samaritan Dental Clinic, Rochester
St. Cloud Technical College Hygiene Program