

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 \$43,288 in grants and/or in-kind services to fund 67 oral health initiatives.

2006 Recipients

In 2006, MDF gave \$17,320 in cash and/or in-kind services to 24 projects. Some of the recipients may have received assistance on more than one project. All of the funded programs help increase access to care for underserved populations or help dentists affected by Hurricane Katrina.

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 2006, approximately 5,686 children were seen in 209 community clinics and private dental offices. The value of the services provided was approximately \$1,400,000 by 1,443 volunteers, which included 433 dentists.

American Student Dental Association - University of Minnesota
Apple Tree Dental - Hawley
Apple Tree Dental - Madelia
Apple Tree Dental - Minneapolis
Central Lakes College, Brainerd
Children's Dental Services, Minneapolis
Lake Superior College, Duluth
Minneapolis District Dental Society & Sharing and Caring Hands
Minnesota State Community & Technical College, Moorhead
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Normandale Community College Hygiene Program, Bloomington
Northwest Technical College, Bemidji
Open Door Health Center, Mankato
Rochester Community & Technical College – Dental Hygiene
Rochester Community & Technical College – Dental Assisting
Salvation Army Good Samaritan Dental Clinic, Rochester

Community Outreach

A number of community-based clinics and outreach programs provide critical dental services to children and adults who otherwise would not have access to oral health care.

Children's Dental Service, Minneapolis
Community University Health Care Clinic, Minneapolis
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery
Liga International for dental students
Red Lake School Prevention Program, Red Lake
Westside Dental & Helping Hand Dental Clinics, St. Paul
Dental offices affected by Hurricane Katrina