

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 \$89,918 in grants and/or in-kind services to fund 120 oral health initiatives.

2008 Recipients

In 2008, MDF gave \$32,620 in cash and/or in-kind services to 29 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 to build a sustainable oral health workforce in Minnesota.

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 2008, approximately 4,900 children were seen in 197 community clinics and private dental offices. The value of the services provided was approximately \$1,700,000 by 1,959 volunteers, which included 464 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 Service, Minneapolis
Lake Superior College, Duluth
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Minneapolis District Dental Society & Sharing and Caring Hands
Northwest Technical College, Bemidji
Pillager County Dental
Salvation Army Good Samaritan Dental Clinic, Rochester
Union Gospel Mission, St. Paul

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.

Central Lakes College, Brainerd
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery
Minnesota State Community & Technical College
Smiles Change Lives - Minnesota
Union Gospel Mission, St. Paul
Worthington Dentists

Allied Dental Education Programs

The following organizations in Minnesota received grants in 2008 to help with resources to assist with educating dental auxiliaries while providing care to the underserved.

Central Lakes College, Brainerd
Hennepin Technical College, Minneapolis
Lake Superior Technical College, Duluth
Minnesota State Community & Technical College, Moorhead
Minnesota West Community & Technical College, Canby
Northwest Technical College, Bemidji