

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 \$134,432 in grants and/or in-kind services to fund 152 oral health initiatives.

2009 Recipients

In 2009, MDF gave \$44,514 in cash and/or in-kind services to 32 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 2009, approximately 5,200 children were seen in 208 community clinics and private dental offices. The value of the services provided was approximately \$1,700,000 by 2,500 volunteers, which included 533 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
Minneapolis District Dental Society & Sharing and Caring Hands
Minnesota State University, Mankato
NIP Uptown Community Clinic, Minneapolis
Northwest Technical College, Bemidji

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
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery
Minnesota State Community & Technical College, Moorhead
Molar Express w/ Southside Community Health Services, Minneapolis
Northern Dental Access Center, Bemidji
Open Door Health Center, Mankato
Pillager County Dental
Project Homeless Connect - Minneapolis
Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, Twin Cities
Smiles Change Lives - Minnesota
Western Community Action Head Start, Marshall
Westside Dental & Helping Hand Dental Clinics, St. Paul

Allied Dental Education Programs

The following organizations in Minnesota received grants in 2009 to help with resources to assist with educating dental auxiliaries while providing care to the underserved.

Central Lakes College, Brainerd

Minnesota State Community & Technical College, Moorhead

Minnesota West Community & Technical College, Canby

Northwest Technical College, Dental Assisting, Bemidji

Southwest Central Technical College, Dental Assisting, Mankato