

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. 2012 saw the beginning of internal programs to provide care. 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 \$479,936 in grants and/or in-kind services to fund 273 oral health initiatives.

2012 Recipients

In 2012, MDF gave \$267,146 in cash and/or in-kind services to 39 projects. Some of the recipients may have received assistance on more than one project. Of those dollars, funding was provided for two internal programs, the Minnesota Mission of Mercy and Donated Dental Services at a cost of \$237,300. 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 2012, 5,141 children were seen in 180 community clinics and private dental offices. The value of the services provided was approximately \$2 million by 2,719 volunteers, which included 536 dentists.

American Student Dental Association - University of Minnesota
Apple Tree Dental - Fergus Falls
Apple Tree Dental - Hawley
Apple Tree Dental - Rochester
Central Lakes College, Brainerd
Children's Dental Services, Minneapolis
Community Dental Care, Maplewood
Dakota County Technical College, Rosemont
Lake Superior College, Duluth
Minneapolis District Dental Society, Apple Tree Dental - Minneapolis
and Sharing and Caring Hands
Minnesota State University, Mankato
NIP Community Dental Clinic, Minneapolis
Northern Dental Access Center, Bemidji
Northwest Technical College, Bemidji
Rice Regional Dental Clinic, Willmar
South Central College, North Mankato
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.

Caring Hands Dental Clinic/West Central Dental Resources, Alexandria
Dental Lifeline Network (Donated Dental Services program), State-wide
Face to Face Health and Counseling Services, St. Paul
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery

Jewish Family and Children's Service, Minneapolis
Lifetrack Resources, St. Paul
Just Kids Dental/Lake View Memorial Hospital, Two Harbors
Northern Dental Access Center, Bemidji
Open Door Health Center, Mankato
Project Homeless Connect, Minneapolis
Red River Valley Dental Access Project, Fargo
Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, Twin Cities
St. Joseph's Community Dental Clinic, Park Rapids
Smiles Change Lives, State-wide
Union Gospel Mission, St. Paul
Westside Dental and Helping Hand Dental Clinics, St. Paul

Allied Dental Education Programs

The following organization in Minnesota received a grant to help with resources to assist with educating dental auxiliaries while providing care to the underserved.

Community Dental Care, Maplewood

Internal Programs

The following two projects of the Minnesota Dental Foundation provided care to the underserved.

The **Minnesota Mission of Mercy (MnMOM)** project set up a temporary dental clinic at Verizon Wireless Center in Mankato. There were 1,367 caring volunteers who provided \$1,302,983 in free dental services on 2,062 patient encounters.

Donated Dental Services (DDS), a program of Dental Lifeline Network provided free dental care to disabled, elderly and medically-compromised patients in private dental offices. In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012, 196 patients received \$844,413 in comprehensive care by 448 dental volunteers. Not every dentist saw a patient during the year.