

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 \$853,829 in grants and/or in-kind services to fund 315 oral health initiatives.

2013 Recipients

In 2013, MDF gave \$373,893 in cash and/or in-kind services to 42 projects. Some of the recipients may have received assistance on more than one project. Of those dollars, funding was provided for three internal programs, the Minnesota Mission of Mercy, Donated Dental Services and the Martha Mordini Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program at a cost of \$345,317. 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 2013, 6,052 children were seen in 201 community clinics and private dental offices. The value of the services provided was approximately \$2 million by 2,995 volunteers, which included 565 dentists.

American Student Dental Association - University of Minnesota
Apple Tree Dental - Fergus Falls
Apple Tree Dental - Hawley
Central Lakes College, Brainerd
Children's Dental Services, Minneapolis
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
Rice Regional Dental Clinic, Willmar
St. Cloud Technical College Dental Clinic, St. Cloud
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.

ADT Foundation, Minneapolis
Apple Tree Dental/Project Homeless Connect, Minneapolis
Central Lakes College, Brainerd
Children's Dental Services, Minneapolis
Dakota Communities, Dakota County
Donated Dental Services Program/ Dental Lifeline Network, State-wide
Doorstep Healthcare Services, St. Louis Park
Early Childhood Health and Resources Fair, Minneapolis

Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Golden Valley
Just Kids Dental, Two Harbors
Lifetrack Resources Inc., St. Paul
Mission of Mercy, Bemidji
Northern Dental Access Center, Bemidji
Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, Twin Cities
Scott County Health & Human Services Adult Mental Health, Scott County
Smiles Change Lives, State-wide
St. Joseph of the Lakes Church, Lino Lakes
Union Gospel Mission, St. Paul
United for the Community, Anoka
West Side Dental and Helping Hand Dental Clinics, St. Paul
Women's Health Outreach – Face to Face, St. Paul
Women's Health Outreach – Open Cities, St. Paul
Women's Health Outreach – West Side Community Health, St. Paul

Allied Dental Education Programs

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

Caring Hands Dental Clinic/West Central Dental Resources, Alexandria
Community Dental Care, Maplewood

Internal Programs

The following three 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 The Sanford Center in Bemidji. There were 1,308 caring volunteers who provided \$958,912 in free dental services on 1,652 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, 2013, 219 patients received \$987,416 in comprehensive care by 457 dental volunteers.

The **Martha Mordini Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program** is a state-funded program to help dentists pay back educational loans if they are willing to practice in the Taconite Assistance Area of northeastern Minnesota for at least five years. Two recipients were selected for this program starting in 2013 and each will receive \$30,000 for four years as long as they comply with the program requirements.