

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 \$1,210,085 in grants and/or in-kind services to fund 365 oral health initiatives.

2014 Recipients

In 2014, MDF gave \$356,256 in cash and/or in-kind services to 50 projects. Some of the recipients may have received assistance on more than one project. Of those dollars, funding was provided for four internal programs, the Minnesota Mission of Mercy, Donated Dental Services, Martha Mordini Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program and the Retired Dentist Program, at a cost of \$312,072. 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 2014, 4,773 children were seen in 176 community clinics and private dental offices. The value of the services provided was approximately \$1.7 million by 2,553 volunteers, which included 469 dentists.

American Student Dental Association - University of Minnesota, Minneapolis
Apple Tree Dental, Fergus Falls
Apple Tree Dental, Hawley
Central Lakes College, Brainerd
Children's Dental Services, Minneapolis
Lake Superior College – Dental Hygiene, Duluth
Minneapolis District Dental Society, Sharing and Caring Hands, Apple Tree Dental, Minneapolis
Minnesota State University – Mankato, Mankato
NIP Dental Clinic, Minneapolis
Rice Regional Dental Clinic, Willmar
St. Cloud Technical College Dental Clinic, St. Cloud
Union Gospel Mission Twin Cities, 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 Kids, Minneapolis
CARE Clinic, Red Wing
Caring Hands Dental Clinic/West Central Dental Resources, Alexandria
Central Lakes College, Brainerd
Doorstep Healthcare Services, St. Louis Park
Good in the Hood, Bloomington
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Minneapolis
Inner City Christian Ministries, Minneapolis
Jericho Road Ministries, Minneapolis
Just Kids Dental, Two Harbors

Lifetrack Resources, Inc, St. Paul
Living Well Disability Services (Dakota Communities), Eagan
Medical Teams International, Eagan
Minnesota Dental Association – GKAS, Statewide
Mission Outpost Dental Clinic/ Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Burnsville
North Shore Health Care Foundation (Oral Health Task Force), Grand Marais
Northern Dental Access, Bemidji
Open Cities Health Center, St. Paul
Open Door Health Center, Mankato
Sharing and Caring Hands, Minneapolis
Smiles Change Lives, Statewide
Southside Community Health Services, Inc, Minneapolis
Ronald McDonald House Charities, Upper Midwest, Twin Cities
UMN Community-University Health Care Center, Minneapolis
Union Gospel Mission, 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.

Community Dental Care, Maplewood

Internal Programs

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

Donated Dental Services (DDS), a program of Dental Lifeline Network provided free dental care to disabled, elderly and medically fragile patients in private dental offices. In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014, 219 patients received \$907,842 in comprehensive care by 458 dental volunteers.

The **Martha Mordini Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program** is funded by the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board (IRRRB), 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.

The **Minnesota Mission of Mercy (MnMOM)** project set up a temporary dental clinic at The Verizon Wireless Center in Mankato in July. There were 1,028 caring volunteers who provided \$875,708 in free dental services on 1,490 patient encounters.

The **Retired Dentists Program** is a pilot project for retired dentists who are no longer earning any income from dentistry to reimburse them for their license, professional liability insurance, CPR and CE in return for providing volunteer dentistry to the underserved. Retired dentists must provide at least 100 hours per year (about one day per month) and receive no compensation. Reimbursement is a maximum of \$4,000 in every two-year cycle. Currently, there are three dentists in the program. Total expenditures in 2014 were \$3,932.