

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 \$1,598,883 in grants and/or in-kind services to fund 423 oral health initiatives.

2015 Recipients

In 2015, MDF gave \$404,205 in cash and/or in-kind services to 58 projects. Some of the recipients may have received assistance on more than one project. Of those dollars, funding was provided for six internal programs, the Minnesota Mission of Mercy, Donated Dental Services, Martha Mordini Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program, Minnesota's Heroes Orthodontic Program and the Retired Dentist Program, at a cost of \$365,921. In addition, the Dedicated to Minnesota's Dentists Loan Repayment for Service Program, which is a collaborative effort with Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation, provided an additional \$800,000 to assist four dentists in starting to practices in rural HPSAs in Minnesota. 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 2015, 3,990 children were seen in 167 community clinics and private dental offices. The value of the services provided was approximately \$1.7 million by 2,402 volunteers, which included 438 dentists. In addition, the Minnesota Dental Foundation contributed \$5,000 for media exposure to help inform potential patients.

Apple Tree Dental, Fergus Falls
Apple Tree Dental, Rochester
Central Lakes College, Brainerd
Children's Dental Services, Minneapolis
Community Dental Care, Maplewood
Lake Superior College Dental Hygiene, Duluth
Minneapolis District Dental Society, Sharing and Caring Hands, Apple Tree Dental, Minneapolis
Minnesota State University – Mankato, Mankato
Northwest Technical College, Bemidji
Rice Regional Dental Clinic, Willmar
Rose Country Dental, Pillager
St. Cloud Technical College Dental Clinic, St. Cloud
University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, Minneapolis
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.

C.A.R.E. Clinic, Red Wing
Children's Dental Health Services, Rochester
Community Dental Care, Maplewood
Doorstep Healthcare Services, St. Louis Park

Eastside Family Clinic, St. Paul
Family HealthCare, Moorhead
Good in the Hood, Bloomington
Good Samaritan Dental Clinic, Rochester
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Minneapolis
Hibbing Community College Dental Clinic, Hibbing
Jericho Road Ministries, Minneapolis
Lifetrack/Lifetrack Resources, Inc, St. Paul
Minnesota Dental Association – GKAS media, Statewide
Mission Outpost Dental Clinic/ Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Burnsville
Northern Dental Access, Bemidji
NorthPoint Health & Wellness Center, Minneapolis
Northwest Technical College, Bemidji
Open Door Health Center, Mankato
Operation Grace MN, Roseville
Osseo Intermediate School Community Service Day, Osseo
Ready Set Smile, Minneapolis
Red Lake Indian Reservation – Jan Carlson, Red Lake
Red River Valley Dental Access Project, Moorhead
Sharing and Caring Hands, Minneapolis
St. Joseph's Community Dental Clinic, Park Rapids
The Initiative Foundation, Little Falls
UMN Community-University Health Care Center, Minneapolis
Union Gospel Mission, St. Paul
West Central Dental Resources/Caring Hands, Alexandria

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.

Central Lakes College, Brainerd
Community Dental Care, Maplewood
North Shore Health Care Foundation (Oral Health Task Force), Grand Marais

Internal Programs

The following six 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, 2015, 173 patients received \$914,274 in comprehensive care by 441 dental volunteers at a cost of \$80,000.

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 and each will receive \$30,000 for four years for a total of \$120,000 each as long as they comply with the program requirements.

The **Minnesota Mission of Mercy (MnMOM)** project set up a temporary dental clinic at Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) in Duluth in July. There were 939 caring volunteers who provided \$969,712 in free dental services on 1,440 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 for the program in 2015 were \$3,932.

The **Minnesota's Heroes Orthodontic Program** was initiated in 2015 to provide needed orthodontic care to children and spouses in Gold Star Families (families who have lost a family member to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since 9/11). This program is in collaboration with Smiles Change Lives. Two children began the program in 2015. The orthodontists provide the treatment for free and there have been no direct costs for this program

The **Dedicated to Minnesota Dentists Loan Repayment for Service Program** provides loan repayment up to \$200,000 per individual if they practice in a rural Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for five years. This program is in collaboration with the Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation and it provide the funding of the program. Four dentists were selected for 2015 in the cities of Mora, Ely, Benson and Warroad with total payments of \$800,000.