

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 \$2,674,318 in grants and/or in-kind services to fund 552 oral health initiatives. In addition, \$2,000,000 has been dispersed by the Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation in the collaborative project to help access dental care in rural HPSAs. Another collaborative project with DentaQuest was valued at \$5,000. Thus, a total of \$4,679,318 has been allocated to help the underserved access dental care.

2018 Recipients

In 2018, MDF gave \$484,052 in cash and/or in-kind services to 46 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 total cost of \$429,824. 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 \$400,000 to assist two dentists in starting to practices in rural Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) in Minnesota and DentaQuest helped fund Ready Set Smile for \$5,000. 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 2018, 2,330 children were seen in 124 community clinics and private dental offices. The value of the services provided was approximately \$1.2 million by 1,678 volunteers, which included 263 dentists.

ASDA - School of Dentistry, Minneapolis
Central Lakes College Dental Assisting Program, Brainerd
CHI St. Joseph’s Community Dental Clinic, Park Rapids
Children’s Dental Services, Minneapolis
Community Dental Care, Maplewood
Community Dental Care, Robbinsdale
Community Dental Care, Rochester
Community Dental Care, St. Paul
Hope Dental Clinic, St. Paul
Lake Superior College, Duluth
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Northwest Technical College, Bemidji
Rice Regional Dental Clinic, Willmar
St. Cloud Technical College Dental Clinic, St. Cloud

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.

CARE Clinic, Red Wing
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud, St. Cloud
Doorstep Healthcare Services, Inc., St. Louis Park
Fostering Love, Oakdale
Free Clinic of Steele County, Owatonna
Gillette Children's Hospital Foundation for Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare, St. Paul
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Minneapolis
Jericho Road Ministries, Minneapolis
Just Kids Dental, Two Harbors
Lakewood Health System, Staples
Let's Smile, Inc., Owatonna
Minnesota Dental Association – GKAS, Statewide
Minnesota State University, Mankato
Mission Outpost Dental Clinic/Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Burnsville
Mobile Loaves Twin Cities, Minneapolis
North Shore Health Care Foundation, Grand Marais
Open Door Health Center, Mankato
Ready Set Smile, Minneapolis
Red River Dental Access Project, Moorhead
Sharing and Caring Hands, Minneapolis
TeamSmile Inc., N Kansas City
UMN Community University Health Care Center (CUHCC), Minneapolis
West Central Initiative, Fergus Falls

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

Internal Programs

The following seven 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, 2018, 200 patients received \$1,001,708 in comprehensive care by 436 dental volunteers at a cost of \$87,253 to administer the program.

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. This program started in 2009 and became a program of the Minnesota Dental Foundation in 2011. Since 2011, one dentist has completed the five-year requirements of the program, one dentist has received all of the funding but needs to fulfill the five-year requirement and one dentist started the program in 2018. Three grants are available.

The **Minnesota Mission of Mercy (MnMOM)** project set up a large temporary dental clinic at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis in September. There were 1,197 caring volunteers who provided 6,588 free dental procedures valued at \$911,759 in 1,462 patient encounters. The

cost of the program was \$261,054. Since the inception of this program in Minnesota in 2012, 45,480 free dental procedures valued at \$6,016,859 in 9,497 patient encounters have been provided.

The **Retired Dentists Program** is a 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. Currently, there are ten retired dentists in the program. Total expenditures for the program in 2018 were \$2,506 and about \$500,000 in free dentistry was provided.

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 in service to our country). This program is in collaboration with Smiles Change Lives and the Minnesota Association of Orthodontists. Two children have completed orthodontic treatment and three more are in the process of applying for treatment. 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 provides the funding of the program. Two dentists were selected for 2018 with total payments of \$400,000. A total of ten dentists and \$2 million now has been utilized to provide dental services in rural HPSAs of Minnesota. The cities include Benson, Bigfork, Cook, Deerwood, Ely, International Falls, Mora, Tyler, Walker and Warroad.

The **Give Kids a Smile** program became a program of the Minnesota Dental Association in 2003 and was transferred to the Minnesota Dental Foundation in 2016. Grants and support from HealthPartners, 3M Oral Care, the Minnesota Dental Association and the Minnesota Dental Foundation contributed funds for the media exposure and program management. Since the program's inception in Minnesota in 2003, 76,438 children have received over \$22 million worth of free dentistry.