

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 \$2,899,291 in grants and/or in-kind services to fund 601 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. And collaborative projects with DentaQuest are valued at \$7,500. Thus, a total of \$4,906,791 has been allocated to help the underserved access dental care.

### **2019 Recipients**

In 2019, MDF gave a total of \$224,973 in cash and/or in-kind services to 49 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 \$174,728. In addition, a collaborative project with DentaQuest helped fund Hope Dental Clinic for \$2,500. 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 2019, 1,992 children were seen in 113 community clinics and private dental offices. The value of the services provided was approximately \$1.1 million by 1,185 volunteers, which included 227 dentists.

American Student Dental Association - ASDA, Minneapolis  
Central Lakes College Dental Assisting Program, Brainerd  
Children’s Dental Health Services, Rochester  
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 Dental Hygiene, Duluth  
Minnesota State University, Mankato, 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.

Apple Tree Dental, Mounds View  
CARE Clinic, Red Wing  
Doorstep Healthcare Services, Inc., St. Louis Park  
Fostering Love Project, 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  
HealthFinders Collaborative, Inc., Faribault  
Hope Dental Clinic, St. Paul  
Jericho Road Ministries, Minneapolis  
Just Kids Dental, Two Harbors  
Let's Smile, Inc., Owatonna  
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Ne la Shing Dental Clinic, Onamia  
Minnesota Dental Association – GKAS, Statewide  
Minnesota State University, Mankato, Mankato  
Minnesota State University, Mankato - Dental Clinic, Mankato  
Mission Outpost Dental Clinic, Burnsville  
North Shore Health Care Foundation, Grand Marais  
Northern Dental Access Center, Bemidji  
Open Cities Health Center, St. Paul  
Open Door Health Center, Mankato  
Ready Set Smile, Minneapolis  
Sharing and Caring Hands, Minneapolis  
Southside Community Health Services, Inc., Minneapolis  
The Rochester Salvation Army Good Samaritan Dental Clinic, Rochester  
West Side Dental Clinics - Bright Smiles Program, St. Paul

Hope Dental Clinic, St. Paul also received funding from the Minnesota Dental Foundation through a grant from DentaQuest

#### **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. Veterans were added as a patient population needing the services of this program. In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019, 272 patients received \$1,009,863 in comprehensive care by 439 dental volunteers at a cost of \$93,391 to administer the program. Since the program's inception in 2003, 2,262 patients have received \$12,435,684 in free dental services..

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)** did not have a project in 2019 but one was scheduled for July 2020. 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 and receive no compensation. Currently, there are ten retired dentists in the program. Total expenditures for the program in 2019 were \$1,969 and about \$308,119 in free dentistry was provided. Since the inception of the program in 2014, 17 retired dentists have provided \$2.2 million in free dentistry.

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 two more started in the fall of 2019. 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. A total of ten dentists and \$2 million now has been utilized to provide dental services in rural HPSAs of Minnesota. The cities include Bigfork, Cook, Deerwood, Ely, International Falls, Montevideo, 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, 78,430 children have received \$23.2 million worth of free dentistry.