

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 \$3,185,877 in grants and/or in-kind services to fund 647 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 \$5,193,377 has been allocated to help the underserved access dental care.

2020 Recipients

In 2020, MDF gave a total of \$286,586 in cash and/or in-kind services to 46 projects. Some of the recipients may have received assistance for more than one project. Of those dollars, funding was provided for five internal programs – the Minnesota Mission of Mercy, Donated Dental Services, Martha Mordini Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program and the Retired Dentist Program, at a total cost of \$230,072. 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. At the 18th consecutive event in 2020, 2,173 children were seen in 93 community clinics and private dental offices. The value of the services provided was approximately \$1.23 million by 1,350 volunteers, which included 233 dentists.

American Student Dental Association – ASDA, Minneapolis
Carris Health Dental Clinic (FKA Rice Regional Dental Clinic), Willmar
Central Lakes College Dental Assisting Program, Brainerd
CHI St. Joseph's Health Community Dental, 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 Clinic, Duluth
Minnesota State University, Mankato Dental Hygiene, Mankato
Northern Dental Access Center, Bemidji
NorthPoint Health and Wellness, Minneapolis
Northwest Technical College, Bemidji
St. Cloud Technical and Community College, 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 - Little Falls, St Paul

CARE Clinic, Red Wing
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud, St. Cloud
CHI St. Joseph's Health, Park Rapids
Community Dental Care, Maplewood
Early Childhood Dental Network, Fergus Falls
Ely Community Health Center, Ely
Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Minneapolis
Hope Dental Clinic (1), St. Paul
Hope Dental Clinic (2), St. Paul
Just Kids Dental, Two Harbors
Let's Smile, Inc., Owatonna
Minnesota State University Dental Hygiene, Mankato
Mission Outpost Dental Clinic, Burnsville
North Shore Health Care Foundation, Grand Marais
Northern Dental Access Center, Bemidji
Portico Healthnet, St. Paul
Sharing and Caring Hands, Minneapolis
Southwest Minnesota ECDN, Marshall
The Rochester Salvation Army Good Samaritan Dental Clinic, Rochester

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, 2020, 248 patients received \$1,008,292 in comprehensive care by 439 dental volunteers and 89 laboratories at a cost of \$93,791 to administer the program. This program is funded by a grant from the Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation. Since the program's inception in 2003, 2,371 patients have received \$13,398,776 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, two dentists have completed the five-year requirements of the program and two dentists are still receiving financial assistance. Funds are available for more applicants.

The **Minnesota Mission of Mercy (MnMOM)** did not have a project in 2020 but is now scheduled for July 2022. In the six events since the inception of the 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 2020 were \$1,424 and \$222,622 in

free dentistry was provided. Since the inception of the program in 2014, 18 retired dentists have participated and have provided \$2.43 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. Four teen-agers have completed 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 at least 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 have 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. 3M Oral Care, the Minnesota Dental Association, the Minnesota Dental Foundation and several individual donors contributed funds for the media exposure and program management. Since the program's inception in Minnesota in 2003, 80,603 children have received \$24.4 million worth of free dentistry.