

MINNESOTA DENTAL FOUNDATION

2024

Members

Stephen Litton, President; Michael Zakula, Vice President; Laura Eng, Secretary; Michael Kurkowski, Treasurer; Amber Cziok; S. Renee Dotson; Bruce Downey; Angela Hastings; Mitchell Hruska; Lee Jess; Kirsten Langguth; Roland Oyou; Rosalie Perpich; Karl Self; Rosalie Perpich, Board Liaison; Carmelo Cinqueonce, Ex-Officio.

Vision

The vision of the Minnesota Dental Foundation (MDF) is to eliminate unmet oral health needs in Minnesota.

Mission

- Initiate and support programs that provide dental services to underserved populations and communities;
- Encourage and support volunteerism within the profession;
- Promote careers in dentistry, especially in underserved areas.

Activities

Board meetings were held on January 9, March 16, June 19, and October 25, 2023, and on January 25 and March 18, 2024. The 2023 Annual Report will be posted this summer after the audit is completed.

The OneSmile Gala was held September 23, 2023, at the InterContinental MSP Hotel, and was a resounding success. We celebrated the Retired Dentists Program exceeding \$3,000,000 in free care.

The Minnesota Dental Foundation had a booth at the 2023 and 2024 Star of the North meetings and raised funds with the Wall of Wine. In addition, a group of three vendors who exhibit at Star of the North promoted a golf tournament in May 2023 at Braemar Golf Course with all of the proceeds dedicated to the Minnesota Dental Foundation. Plans are to make this an annual event.

The Minnesota Dental Foundation has eight programs. The following is a brief synopsis of each program.

1. Martha Mordini Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program

The Martha Mordini Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program is a competitive program that provides a financial incentive to attract dentists to practice dentistry in the Taconite Assistance Area (TAA) of northeastern Minnesota. Before this became a program of the Foundation in 2011, three new dentists were placed in the TAA in 2009.

Since 2011, three dentists have completed and four are still in the program. Funds are available for a few more applicants.

2. Minnesota Mission of Mercy (MnMOM)

1 The eighth MnMOM was held June 7-8, 2024 at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center. There
 2 were 924 patient encounters (778 unique patients and 18.8% or 146 of the patients came more
 3 than once) and \$1,185,820.67 worth of free dentistry was provided by 592 volunteers. In addition,
 4 patients received \$1,836 in free medications.

5
 6 Past MnMOM events have taken place in Mankato (2012), Bemidji (2013), Mankato (2014), Duluth
 7 (2015), Moorhead (2016), Minneapolis (2018) and St. Cloud (2022). Since its inception in
 8 Minnesota, 7,665 compassionate volunteers have completed 57,322 dental procedures valued at
 9 \$7,940,208 in 11,331 patient encounters. In the eight years, we have treated patients from 83 of
 10 the 87 counties in Minnesota.

11 12 **3. Donated Dental Services (DDS), a program of Dental Lifeline Network**

13 At the completion of the 2022-2023 fiscal year on June 30, 2023, \$1,003,104 worth of dental
 14 services were provided to 208 patients with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile. The
 15 administrative cost of the program was \$90,000 and was again funded by a grant from the Delta
 16 Dental of Minnesota Foundation.

17
 18 This program is managed by Dental Lifeline Network. The program began in 2003 and as of
 19 December 31, 2023, the program has provided \$16.6 million in free care to 2,716 disabled, elderly
 20 of medically fragile individuals.

21 22 **4. Retired Dentist Program**

23 This program was started in December 2013. If a licensed dentist is not earning any income from
 24 practicing, teaching or consulting but wishes to maintain his/her dental license for volunteering,
 25 this program provides reimbursement of the fees needed to keep one's dental license active, and
 26 maintain professional liability insurance and continuing education expenses, in return for
 27 providing free care to the underserved. As of December 31, 2023, there were seven participants in
 28 this program. Initial funding for this program came from the Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation
 29 and funding has been continued by grants from DentaQuest and Delta Dental of Minnesota
 30 Foundation.

31
 32 As of December 31, 2023, \$3.3 million of free dentistry has been provided by the 21 retired dentists
 33 who have volunteered for this program since 2013.

34 35 **5. Dedicated to Minnesota Dentists Loan Repayment for Service Program**

36 The Foundation collaborated with the Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation on a project to attract
 37 newly graduated dentists to practice in Health Professions Shortage Areas (HPSA) of rural
 38 Minnesota. The Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation committed \$2,000,000 to the program. The
 39 program awards up to \$200,000 per recipient to repay qualified dental education loans.

40
 41 The dentists are in the cities of Bigfork, Cook, Deerwood, Ely, International Falls, Montevideo, Mora,
 42 Tyler, Walker, and Warroad. Funds are no longer available for this program.

43 44 **6. Minnesota's Heroes Orthodontic Program**

45 This program started in the fall of 2015 to provide free orthodontic care to children ages 8-21 and
 46 spouses of Gold Star Families, those families who have lost a family member in the armed services
 47 since 9/11. Five children have completed treatment.

48 49 **7. Give Kids a Smile**

1 This program started in 2003 by the Minnesota Dental Association and transferred to the
 2 Minnesota Dental Foundation in 2015. This program provides free dental care to children on the
 3 first weekend in February. In 2024, approximately 2,500 children received free dental care valued
 4 at \$1.17 million by 745 volunteers.

5
 6 Since its inception in 2003 in Minnesota, 37,200 volunteers have provided \$27.5 million of free
 7 dentistry to over 86,500 kids.

8 **8. Grant Awards for 2023**

9
 10 The Minnesota Dental Foundation received 31 grant requests for \$131,907 in 2023. Of those
 11 requests, grants totaling \$72,647 were distributed to 29 recipients.

12
 13 The following Give Kids a Smile community and volunteer clinics received \$12,575 in grants:

- 14 • CentraCare Dental Clinic, Willmar
- 15 • Central Lakes College, Brainerd
- 16 • CHI St. Joseph's Community Dental, Park Rapids
- 17 • Children's Dental Services, Minneapolis
- 18 • Community Dental Care, Buffalo
- 19 • Community Dental Care, Maplewood
- 20 • Community Dental Care, Robbinsdale
- 21 • Community Dental Care, Rochester
- 22 • Community Dental Care, St. Paul
- 23 • Lake Superior College Dental Hygiene Clinic, Duluth
- 24 • Minnesota State University, Mankato
- 25 • University of Minnesota GKAS, Minneapolis

26
 27 Community and volunteer clinics providing care to the underserved received \$59,772 in support of
 28 its programs. Grants were awarded to:

- 29 • CARE Clinic, Red Wing
- 30 • CHI St. Joseph's Health, Park Rapids
- 31 • Children's Dental Health Services, Rochester
- 32 • Community Dental Care, Buffalo
- 33 • Gillette Children's Hospital Foundation, St. Paul
- 34 • Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Minneapolis
- 35 • Hope Dental Clinic, St. Paul
- 36 • Let's Smile, Inc., Owatonna
- 37 • Minnesota State University, Mankato
- 38 • Mission Outpost Dental Clinic, Burnsville
- 39 • Mobile Loaves Twin Cities, Minneapolis
- 40 • Northern Dental Access Center, Bemidji
- 41 • Northern Dental Access Center, Halstad
- 42 • Ready, Set Smile PA, Minneapolis
- 43 • The Salvation Army's Good Samaritan Dental Clinic, Rochester
- 44 • United Family Medicine, St. Paul

45
 46 One program involved in the education of dental auxiliaries received \$300.

- 47 • Central Lakes College, Brainerd

48

1 In addition, the following programs received funding during 2023.

- 2 • Rukavina Loan Forgiveness Program, \$108,800.00
- 3 • Donated Dental Services, \$97,789.56
- 4 • Minnesota Mission of Mercy, \$7,938.76
- 5 • Give Kids a Smile Management/Media, \$11,044.22
- 6 • Retired Dentist Program, \$3,001.86

7
8 In total, the Minnesota Dental Foundation provided \$301,221.40 to help thousands of individuals
9 access dentistry in 2023.

10
11 **9. Grant Awards for 2024 (through June 1, 2024)**

12 The Minnesota Dental Foundation received 40 grant requests for \$2,864,780 in 2024. Of those
13 requests, grants totaling \$75,075 were distributed to 31 recipients. This amount was the highest
14 we have ever funded for grant requests.

15
16 The following Give Kids a Smile community and volunteer clinics received \$13,075 in grants:

- 17 • CentraCare Foundation, Willmar
- 18 • Children’s Dental Services, Minneapolis
- 19 • Community Dental Care, Buffalo
- 20 • Community Dental Care, Maplewood
- 21 • Community Dental Care, Robbinsdale
- 22 • Community Dental Care, Rochester
- 23 • Community Dental Care, St. Paul
- 24 • Lake Superior College Dental Hygiene Clinic, Duluth
- 25 • Minnesota State University, Mankato
- 26 • University of Minnesota School of Dentistry GKAS, Minneapolis

27
28 Community and volunteer clinics providing care to the underserved received \$62,000 in support of
29 its programs. Grants were awarded to:

- 30 • CARE Clinic, Red Wing
- 31 • CentraCare Foundation, Willmar
- 32 • Central Lakes College, Brainerd
- 33 • Children’s Dental Health Services, Rochester
- 34 • Ely Community Health Center, Ely
- 35 • Family HealthCare, Fargo
- 36 • Gillette Children’s Hospital Foundation, St. Paul
- 37 • Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery, Minneapolis
- 38 • Hope Dental Clinic, St. Paul
- 39 • Just Kids Dental, Two Harbors
- 40 • Lake Superior Community Health Center, Duluth
- 41 • Lakewood Health System, Staples
- 42 • Let’s Smile, Inc., Owatonna
- 43 • Minnesota State University, Mankato
- 44 • Mission Outpost Dental Clinic, Burnsville
- 45 • New Beginnings Pregnancy + Family Support, Grand Rapids
- 46 • Northern Dental Access Center, Bemidji
- 47 • Ready, Set Smile, PA, Minneapolis
- 48 • Sawtooth Mountain Clinic Oral Health Task Force, Grand Marais

- 1 • Sharing and Caring Hands, Minneapolis
- 2 • The Salvation Army Good Samaritan Dental Clinic, Rochester

3
4 As of June 1, 2024, the following additional monies have been distributed: \$55,064 supported the
5 DDS program, \$11,381 supported the marketing/media for Give Kids a Smile, and \$27,189
6 supported Minnesota Mission of Mercy.

7 8 **10. Financial Information as of December 31, 2023**

9 As of December 31, 2023, audited total assets were \$2,306,733 compared to \$2,153,028 for
10 December 31, 2022. Since its inception through December 31, 2023, the Minnesota Dental
11 Foundation has awarded \$4,108,806 in grants to fund 752 oral health initiatives to provide dental
12 care to the underserved in Minnesota. An additional \$2,000,000 was directly funded by the Delta
13 Dental of Minnesota Foundation for the Dedicated to Minnesota Dentists program and \$7,500 by
14 DentaQuest for a total of \$6,116,306 to help the underserved in Minnesota to access dental care.

15
16 Fundraising continues to provide all of the necessary funds to keep the Minnesota Dental
17 Foundation viable. Contributions come from Minnesota Dental Association members through the
18 national/constituent/component dues statement, from the annual drive that is done in the fall,
19 from fundraising events, grants from foundations and corporations to fund specific Foundation
20 programs and unsolicited gifts from online giving. In addition, the Legacy Circle continues to grow
21 as more donors realize that donations through estate bequests are an efficient way to support the
22 Minnesota Dental Foundation through a reduction in estate taxes.

23
24 All the information, programs, donors, grantees and history of the Foundation can be found at
25 mndentalfoundation.org. Articles about the Minnesota Dental Foundation and its projects also
26 appear in each issue of *Northwest Dentistry* as well as periodically in *News & Views*.

27
28 Together, we CAN make a difference!

29
30 Submitted by:

31
32 Stephen F. Litton, D.D.S.
33 President