1 2	REPORT OF THE MISSION OF MERCY TASK FORCE (MnMOM)
3 4 5	2024
5 6 7	<u>Members</u>
8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17	Alejandro M. Aguirre, Chair; Laura Aguirre; Michael Ahn; Prasad Bastodkar; Alicia Bullard; Carmelo Cinqueonce; Vicki Capistrant; Chris Coutler; Geetha Damodaran; Katie Divine; Dawn Ellerd; Teresa Fong; Julie Haman; Jane Hartner; Christine Hermanson; Tim Holland; Andrea Jauli; Janelle Jehn; Richard Kochmann; Austin Krauza; Jordan Krivanek; Theresa LaMotte; Logan Lawrence; Katherine Leclair; Kimberly Lindquist; Steve Litton; Rachel Malterud; Jill Merrill; Renee Meuleners; Janae Momchilovich; Jim Nickman; Joe Norell; Eileen Patterson; Rose Perpich; Jesse Ponsness; Petra Powers; Dave Rupprecht; Gary Schneider; Gracie Skoog Cale Strait; Tasha Strait; Loren Taple; Scott Varland; Sandie Weitiemier; Gary Williams; Kim Williams; Jerry Wimmer; Lori Worwa
18	Duties
19 20 21	To facilitate the delivery of charitable dental care to the underserved.
22 23	Activities
23 24 25 26 27 28 29	The 2024 Minnesota Mission of Mercy (MnMOM) held at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC), June 7-8, 2024, was another successful event. There were 924 patient encounters (778 unique patients and 18.8% or 146 of the patients came more than once) and \$1,185,820.67 worth of free dentistry was provided by 592 volunteers. In addition, patients received \$1,836 in free medications.
30 31 32 33 34	There were 6,472 dental procedures completed plus medications were dispensed 204 times. Each patient visit resulted in 7.0 procedures valued at \$1,283.36. Dental procedures included exams, x-rays, fillings, extractions, root canals, acrylic partial dentures for missing front teeth, children's dentistry, and cleanings.
35 36 37 38	The patients came from 29 counties in Minnesota and seven counties in Wisconsin. Patients also came from six other counties around the country. They ranged in age from 1 to 84 while 14.8% of the patients were 18 or younger.
39 40 41 42	To date, 32 donors contributed \$234,853 in cash to help pay for the expenses of the event. Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation has been the Signature Sponsor for eight consecutive events. There were 43 in-kind donors of various goods and services.
43 44 45 46 47	It was important to have Minnesota's legislators attend the event to see first-hand the need for state policymakers to understand that the dental needs of the underserved are not being met by current policies. Those attending included two State Representatives, two Commissioners and the mayor of Duluth. In addition, Governor Walz officially declared Friday, June 7, 2024, as Mission of Mercy Day.

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- 1 Eight MnMOM events have now been completed and statistics indicate that, throughout the years,
- 2 7,665 compassionate volunteers have completed 57,322 dental procedures in 11,331 patient
- 3 encounters, for a value of \$7,940,208. In total, patients from 83 of the 87 counties in Minnesota
- 4 have been treated.
- 5

6 2024 MnMOM Cash Donations

- 7 (some have donated more than once)
- 8

9 Foundations/Corporations

- 10 Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation Signature Sponsor
- 11 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota
- 12 CareQuest Foundation
- 13 DentaQuest
- 14 Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation Wirtanen Family Fund
- 15 International College of Dentists USA Section Foundation
- 16 Medica Foundation
- 17 Oral Health Foundation of Pierre Fauchard Academy
- 18 Park Dental Partners Foundation
- 19 Patterson Foundation
- 20 St. Luke's
- 21 United Healthcare Community Plan of Minnesota
- 22 Visit Duluth
- 23

24 District Dental Societies

- 25 Minneapolis District Dental Society
- 26 Northeastern District Dental Society
- 27 Northwestern District Dental Society
- 28 St. Paul District Dental Society
- 29 Southeastern District Dental Society
- 30 Southern District Dental Society
- 31

32 Dental Organizations

- 33 Minnesota Association of Endodontists
- 34

35 Member Dentists/Dental Offices/Dental Clinics

- 36 Lake Superior Dental Associates
- 37 Dr. Charles Salmen
- 38 Dr. Robert Schwegler
- 39

40 Others

- 41 Vicki Capistrant
- 42 Sharon Coombs in appreciation of Dr. Walter Coombs
- 43 Rochelle & Michael Galinson in honor of Dr. Steve Litton
- 44 Sandra Hayes
- 45 Lukas Lindquist
- 46 Cathy Seward & Tom Peichel
- 47 David & Phyllis Steimer
- 48 Crystal Yang
- 49
- 50 2022 MnMOM In-Kind Donations

- 1 Avalon BioMed
- 2 Benco Dental Supply
- 3 Benson Electric
- 4 Bisco, Inc.
- 5 Black Woods Group Catering
- 6 Brasseler Dental Instrumentation
- 7 Cat Ziegler
- 8 City Tooth, Ltd
- 9 Contract Tile & Carpet, LLC
- 10 Cre-Art Services
- 11 Delta Dental of Minnesota
- 12 Dental Health Products, Inc.
- 13 Dentsply/Sirona Endodontics
- 14 Duluth Curling Club
- 15 Enova Illumination
- 16 Ferguson Plumbing
- 17 GC America
- 18 Halyard Health
- 19 Henry Schein Dental Supply
- 20 Hunt Electric
- 21 Jamar Company
- 22 Just Kids Dental
- 23 Kerr Dental
- 24 Lakeville Dental
- 25 Language Line
- 26 Maguire Refining
- 27 Manta HealthTech
- 28 Metro Sales, Inc
- 29 Miner's, Inc. (Super One Foods)
- 30 Minnesota Department of Health X-ray Unit
- 31 Palmero
- 32 Patterson Dental Supply
- 33 The Rainmaker
- 34 rsvpBOOK.com
- 35 Safco Dental Supply
- 36 Sammy's Pizza
- 37 Sam's Club
- 38 Seiler
- 39 Septodont
- 40 Solventum (3M Oral Care)
- 41 Star of the North
- 42 Tokuyama
- 43 Ultradent
- 44 Carl Zeiss Medite
- 45 Zirc Dental Products, Inc
- 46
- 47
- 48 The Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation is the MnMOM's signature sponsor. The Foundation
- 49 has contributed at least \$150,000.00 a year for the past eight events since its inception.
- 50

- 1 I would like to give a special thanks to Patterson Dental and Henry Schein Dental for their 2 continued support in terms of product and for sending their techs at the companies' expense to
- 3 help us set up, during the project, and tear down.
 4 Goals
- 4 5
- To provide access to free dental care while placing a high priority on patients suffering from dental pain or infection.
- To raise awareness of the increasing difficulty low-income children and adults face in accessing dental care.
- To challenge patients, policymakers, and dental professionals to work together to improve the oral health of those in need.
- To change people's lives by relieving them of pain. When someone is free of pain, they can work
 a full day again; they now have a front tooth and have the confidence they need to look for a job.
 Kids can smile and laugh with other kids.
- To capitalize on the local dentists' willingness to care for those most in need and to draw attention further that if the state's public programs are not going to be changed for the better, the dentists in this state are willing to help those in need.
- 18

A successful event puts a face on the problem that not everyone who needs access to a dentist can receive it. Tabulation of the number of patient visits and the procedures completed throughout the event will help determine the value of treatment provided, which will be determined using the American Dental Association's 75th percentile of fees for our region. Patient interviews were conducted to evaluate the event from the patient's perspective and to obtain basic demographics about the people served. A post-event survey will be available to all volunteers to complete as well.

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Emergency and charity care is expensive, limited in effectiveness, and a treatment of last resort. A
Mission of Mercy is not intended to meet the needs of the underserved, but rather to raise
awareness of the issues facing those in need. This is not a solution, but it is the best that our
association can do at the moment. Oral health is critical to overall health and ensuring residents
have proper dental care is important to our state economically and socially.

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The MDA will be able to use these events to work with lawmakers on viable, bipartisan "Healthy Choices" for reducing barriers to dental care across our state, and to show that Minnesota's dentists are committed to their communities. In the meantime, Mission of Mercy projects will continue to provide needed dental care to the underserved.

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Lastly, I have to say that working for the underserved in our state and helping volunteers find a
way to give back in our backyard has been and continues to be an experience that cannot be
compared with anything. Every single volunteer has truly done God's work.

- 41
- 42 Respectfully submitted by:
- 43
- 44 Alejandro M. Aguirre, D.D.S., M.S., M.B.A
- 45 Chair