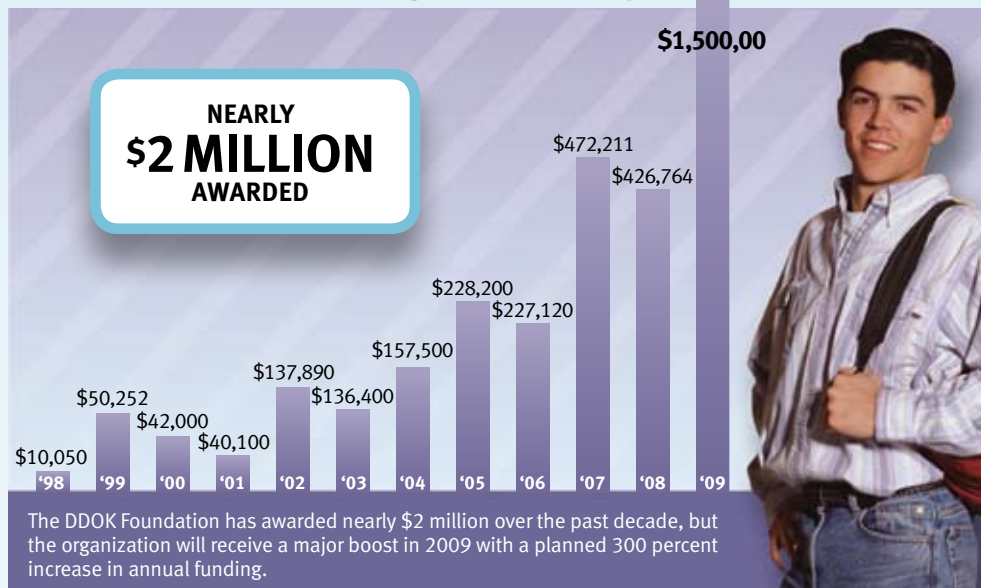


Delta Dental of Oklahoma / Fall 2008

Dentist Check Up

This is a new addition to the Check Up newsletter designed especially for the dentist. Please be sure to have your dentist review it for important information.

Delta Dental Charitable Foundation increases funding for 2009



This year the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Charitable Foundation gave awards totaling nearly \$500,000 to dozens of dental health and education related projects and initiatives, making it the state's single largest contributor to the cause. A planned major increase in funding stands to triple that figure for 2009 and positions the Foundation to become the state's epicenter of free and reduced-cost dental care and education.

Last year Delta Dental invested 20 percent of its net contribution to reserves to the Foundation. Since 2000 it has awarded nearly \$2 million to a variety of mission-related programs throughout

Oklahoma. *The Journal Record* recognized those efforts recently by selecting Delta Dental as the recipient of its inaugural Beacon Award for philanthropic impact.

But Delta Dental's board of directors agreed there was so much more that could be achieved with additional money. That led to a major decision to increase funding to the Foundation to nearly \$1.5 million for 2009—an increase of more than 300 percent over the previous year.

Delta Dental's President and CEO John E. Gladden has been at the helm of the Foundation since its inception a decade ago and has seen funding increase steadily each year. Even so, he says the

need for dental care was so great among the poor, young and elderly the Foundation was merely "scratching the surface." Among other things, he envisions the Foundation offering volunteer coordination services for clinics across the state and alternative routing for patients that need emergency service and might not be seen otherwise.

The buzz of the increased funding is apparently out because the Foundation is already seeing an increasing number of applications for financial assistance. That's good news to Gladden.

"There is so much need in Oklahoma and we are in a unique position to dramatically improve the availability of more care and education," he said. "Our hope is to be able to take this increased funding to provide further support to dental professionals volunteering their time and make the Foundation the center of benevolent dental care for all Oklahomans. We believe it's our responsibility to do so."

The Foundation accepts applications for funding year-round.

To download applications, visit: www.DeltaDentalOK.org/communityservice/foundation.asp

Oklahoma City dentist selected as new chairman

Dr. Mike McLeod, Oklahoma City, has been elected the new chairman of the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Charitable Foundation. He takes over for outgoing Chairman Jim Hampton, who has led the Foundation since its inception in 1998. "We are very pleased to have Dr. McLeod as the new chairman of the Foundation," said DDOK President and CEO John Gladden. "Obviously, this is an exciting time for the organization, which has a firm legacy provided by the great leadership of Jim Hampton for so many years. I thank him sincerely for his service."

Help Wanted

Health for Friends, a Norman, Oklahoma-based organization providing medical, dental, pharmaceutical and prenatal healthcare services to low income individuals and families, has immediate openings for a paid part-time dentist (daytime) and part-time dental assistant/clinic coordinator (flexible hours). The clinic is also seeking dental volunteers to help re-establish their much-needed evening extraction clinic. For more information or consideration visit www.healthforfriends.org or contact Interim Executive Director Maurice Garton at (405) 329-4161 or (405) 919-4114.