

Delta Dental of Oklahoma / Winter 2009

# Dentist Check Up

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

## Delta Dental of Oklahoma Increases Funding For Charitable Foundation



**Cheryl Brewer speaks to reporters during a press conference at Neighbor for Neighbor dental clinic in Tulsa January 19. Brewer is a past recipient of dental care at the clinic, and now serves as a volunteer dental assistant.**

### Oklahomans Benefit From Foundation Growth

When Cheryl Brewer was released from jail two years ago, she knew she had an uphill climb to get back on her feet. Missing several teeth was one of her barriers to ascent. "I had low self esteem because of my teeth, and it was difficult to find a job because of my appearance," she said. "Then Bruce Stewart, a volunteer dentist at Neighbor for Neighbor, fixed my teeth. They gave me my self esteem back, my life and a future."

The Delta Dental of Oklahoma Charitable Foundation has been a support system for many of Oklahoma's non-profit organizations like Neighbor for Neighbor, that strive to help Oklahomans have healthier lifestyles.

As the state's single largest contributor to dental health and education-related projects and initiatives, the foundation will triple funding for 2009 to nearly \$1.5 million. The goal is to help more people like Brewer. After awarding more than \$500,000 in 2007-2008, Delta Dental determined additional projects could be helped through increased funding.

Neighbor for Neighbor is a non-profit interfaith organization in Tulsa. They provide a dental clinic along with nine other services, which assists the

uninsured, low income, unemployed, seniors, handicapped and the impoverished.

"We are very thankful Delta Dental is our partner," Anne Smith, Executive Director, said. "The funding we have received from them has helped us upgrade our clinic and equipment, so we can provide services to people like Cheryl who need help."

Brewer worked with Dr. Stewart after he fixed her teeth to become a volunteer dental assistant at Neighbor for Neighbor. She is now working full time at a dentist office as a dental assistant, and she continues to volunteer on evenings at Neighbor for Neighbor. "It feels good to give back," Brewer said.

Another non-profit benefiting from the foundation's funding is D-Dent, an organization of dentists that provides free comprehensive dental care to elderly and disabled Oklahomans in financial need. The Special Program under D-Dent is one that provides help to abused women and disabled people under the age of 60.

"It is amazing working with dentists, who donate everything, and Delta Dental that helps us provide the funding to pay for peoples' dental needs," Dedra Ray, part-time Special Program Coordinator, said.

*Story continued on back ...*

## Delta Dental of Oklahoma Charitable Foundation 2009 Grant Recipients (Partial)

**DDOK's board of directors recently approved the following grant requests for 2009.**

- » University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry
  - Scholarships: \$50,000
  - Indigent Care Fund: \$100,000
  - Capital Improvements: \$150,000 (3 years)
- » Tri-County Tech Center Free Clinic: \$5,000
- » Southern Oklahoma Technology Center: \$5,000
- » Bristow Free Clinic: \$10,000
- » Good Shepherd Clinic: \$15,000
- » Henderson Hills Free Clinic: \$40,000
- » Neighbor for Neighbor Program: \$100,000
- » Crossings Community Clinic: \$50,000
- » Neighborhood Services Organization: \$51,500
- » Good Shepherd clinic: \$25,000
- » City Rescue Mission care fund: \$20,000
- » Oklahoma Dental Foundation mobile dental unit: \$50,000
- » D-Dent statewide: \$40,000
- » Delta Dental Fund administered by D-Dent: \$110,000
- » Eastern Oklahoma Donated Dental Services: \$30,000
- » Alliance to the Oklahoma Dental Association Give Kids a Smile Day: \$2,000
- » Oklahoma Special Olympics Special Smile program: \$1,500
- » Delta Dental of Oklahoma's Captain Supertooth statewide education program: \$46,000

## Confidential Membership Fee Listing



**Remember to submit your fee listing forms**

*See Check Up Page 2 for details*

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## Oklahomans Benefit From Foundation Growth

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**DDOK President and CEO John E. Gladden, left, presented a check for \$51,500 to the staff of Neighborhood Services Organization, Oklahoma City, during a press conference January 21.**

Since she started working at D-Dent last year, Ray has seen people across the state benefit from D-Dent services like 45-year-old Lynda Ragsdale of Lawton.

Ragsdale suffers from muscular dystrophy and had no teeth. While sitting at her porch one day, some kids pulled up to her house. They made a humorous remark, which had Ragsdale laughing out loud. That's when the tormenting started. The kids noticed Ragsdale had no teeth and began yelling rude comments at her.

After that incident, Ragsdale found out about D-Dent and gave them a call. Ray connected her to Dr. Todd Bridges, who gladly took her in and provided her with a full set of teeth.

"Lynda is one of many proud supporters of D-Dent because of how we were able to give her back hope of a smile and a

future. Success stories like hers could not happen without the sponsorship received from Delta Dental," Ray said.

With the increase in funds, more Oklahomans will benefit from the services Delta Dental supports. John E. Gladden, president and CEO of Delta Dental, envisions the foundation offering volunteer coordination services for clinics across the state and alternative routing for patients who need emergency services and might not be seen otherwise.

"There is so much need in Oklahoma and we are in a unique position to dramatically improve the availability of care and education," he said. "Our long-term goal is to make the Foundation the epicenter of benevolent dental care, coordinating facilities and patients, and serving as a force multiplier."

## Blackburne retires from DDOK Board of Directors

Terry Blackburne, D.D.S., has retired from his position as a member of the board of directors for Delta Dental of Oklahoma after 23 years of service. The change was part of an overall plan to retire from his periodontal specialty practice in Norman.

"We certainly appreciate the time,

talent and service that Dr. Blackburne has given to the Delta Dental of Oklahoma," John E. Gladden, president and CEO, said. "His counsel and specialty expertise have contributed greatly to the success of our company and our charitable foundation. We offer our best wishes to him and his wife Betty for a happy retirement."

## Classified Giving

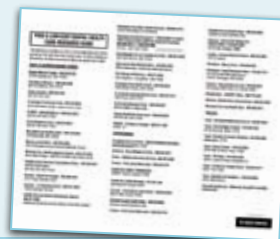


The Good Shepherd Ministries in Oklahoma City is seeking a panoramic X-ray machine for their dental clinic. Good Shepherd

operates an adult pain and extraction clinic every Monday night and a children's clinic every other Tuesday night. The clinic is located at 222 Northwest 12th Street, near downtown Oklahoma City. For more information, or to learn about volunteering opportunities, contact Dr. Frank Lipsinic at 405-271-8001, ext. 48567 or Dr. Teresa Davis at 405-359-0362.

## Resource for Care provides help for those in need

Delta Dental of Oklahoma offers easy-to-use tools to locate clinics and organizations throughout the state that provide referrals and free or low-cost dental care to individuals in need.



To download a free copy of the Resource for Care guide, visit: [www.deltadentalok.org/communityservice/for\\_kids\\_community.asp](http://www.deltadentalok.org/communityservice/for_kids_community.asp)  
OR call 405-607-4725