



Delta Dental of Oklahoma
ORAL HEALTH
FOUNDATION

Epicenter

Summer 2012

Foundation News from Delta Dental of Oklahoma

Foundation to Launch New Online Grant Application

In July, the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Oral Health Foundation will launch its new online grant management program. This new, web-based application will make it easier and more efficient for the Foundation to receive and evaluate requests, collect information and communicate with applicants.

The new “paperless” system will also offer improved convenience and efficiency for our grantee organizations as well as environmental benefits.

Current grantees will receive an email notice when the online application is available for use. The deadline for completing the online form is **September 12, 2012**.

More information can be found on the “Grantmaking” page of our website at www.DDOKFoundation.org.



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RAM Oklahoma Event Seeks Volunteers for August Clinic

The second Remote Area Medical (RAM) Oklahoma event is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 25, and Sunday, Aug. 26 at the Oklahoma State Fairgrounds in Oklahoma City. The event will provide dental, medical and vision services free of charge to hundreds of underserved Oklahomans on a first-come, first-served basis.



In 2010, RAM delivered 2,497 services to 1,635 individual patients at its Oklahoma event. More than 900 patients received dental care, which was the most requested service. Volunteers of all kinds are needed but because dental care is again expected to be in high demand, RAM Oklahoma is especially seeking volunteer dental professionals and students to staff the event’s 50 mobile dental operatories. Volunteer times are flexible and volunteers will be provided with all necessary equipment and meals.

“Like Mission of Mercy, this RAM event is an opportunity for hundreds of Oklahomans to gain access to important dental care they otherwise couldn’t afford,” said John Gladden, president and CEO of Delta Dental of Oklahoma. “And, as with OkMOM, it will only be made possible by dentists, hygienists, assistants, and students generously volunteering their time. We are proud to support the efforts of these volunteer dental professionals as a lead sponsor of the event, and encourage volunteers to register as soon as possible.”

You can help spread the word to prospective patients by copying and distributing the **RAM Oklahoma Patient Flyer** available in the *Resource for Dental Care* guide and on our website at www.deltadentalok.org/communityservice/RAMOK.asp.



DDOK Provider Relations and Oral Health Foundation Team Up at Oklahoma Dental Association Annual Meeting



The DDOK Oral Health Foundation joined DDOK Provider Relations in the ODA annual meeting exhibition hall this year. Our new Foundation booth display highlights some of the great benevolent dentistry programs we support. Look for it every year at the ODA annual meeting! *Pictured above (L to R): Cindy Davidson and Terri Green of DDOK Provider Relations and Terrisa Singleton, Foundation Manager*

DDOK Proposes Enhancements for Mission of Mercy (MOM) Patient Waiting Experience

For the past three years Delta Dental of Oklahoma (DDOK) has enjoyed its collaboration with the Oklahoma Dental Association and Oklahoma Dental Foundation to host Dental Mission of Mercy events in Oklahoma. In addition to Oklahoma, MOM events are held annually in numerous states and offer free dental care to those who otherwise would not be able to afford it. Recently, DDOK elected to explore the experience of patients waiting overnight for MOM treatment and is proposing ideas to improve the waiting patients' experiences and enhance their health, safety and comfort.

At MOM events around the country, it is common for patients to line up several hours before the doors open, and many patients even wait outside overnight to ensure they will receive care. DDOK President and CEO John Gladden recently traveled to Jonesboro, Ark., and spent the night interviewing and observing patients waiting in line to analyze line formation and dynamics prior to the doors opening for the Arkansas Mission of Mercy.

Mr. Gladden prepared a white paper entitled for the national MOM organization documenting his observations and recommendations entitled "Camping for Care." The paper can be viewed at www.tinyurl.com/campingforcare.

"We care a great deal about Mission of Mercy patients and their safety, welfare and comfort," said Gladden. "There are many fairly simple things that can have a positive impact on these patients' experiences waiting in line. We hope that what DDOK does will become a national standard for all MOM events and that other Delta Dental plans will adopt these practices for their events."

Linda Boykin Receives Distinguished Service Award



Linda Boykin, CDA

In conjunction with the Oklahoma Dental Assistants Association, the Foundation has created the **Delta Dental Distinguished Service Award** to recognize a dental assistant for outstanding volunteerism and leadership. The first award was presented at the ODAA Annual Meeting in April to **Linda Boykin, CDA**, of Sapulpa.

As a dental educator for the Oklahoma State Department of Health, Linda takes oral health education into Oklahoma schools. She has served as the Sterilization Lead for all three Oklahoma Mission of Mercy events and is an active volunteer in the dental field, her church and her community. Linda leads by example as an active member and past president of the ODAA and an influential representative to the American Dental Assistants Association.

Linda received a plaque and a prize package of items to help facilitate her educational outreach and volunteer work including a \$200 gift certificate to Practicon, 200 Captain Supertooth brush charts and 200 toothbrushes.

The Foundation plans to present a distinguished service award to an outstanding dental hygienist later this year.