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## DDS VOLUNTEER DENTIST SPOTLIGHT

### Dr. Charles Cullen

In 2003 Dr. Charles Cullen, a semi-retired Albuquerque dentist, began volunteering with Donated Dental Services, and has assisted 15 DDS patients to date.

Dr. Cullen has spent a lifetime giving back. He began practicing dentistry in the military in 1953, then started his own private practice in Albuquerque. Throughout his practicing years, he has gone voluntarily to Mexico to set up five separate dental clinics through the St. Jude Express over a 25-year period. He has worked with the Healthcare for the Homeless for many years donating dental treatment as well.



Dr. Cullen's work has benefited many. One note of thanks that DDS recently received says it so well:

*"Dear Dr. Cullen: Just a little note with BIG thanks for all the hard work and long hours you spent trying to make my mouth feel better. You were always so patient, gave me helpful advice, and introduced me to new products I had never tried before. I so appreciate and like my new dentures!"*

## NM Dental Relief Fund Update

In July 2006, the New Mexico Dental Foundation began administering the New Mexico Dental Relief Fund that had previously been handled by the NMDA. This account is funded by dentists who donate to it at the time they pay their annual NMDA dues.

At the state level, this fund assists dentists who are experiencing practice threatening situations. Most recently, the fund assisted a dentist who suffered a disabling and life threatening illness. On a national level, the ADA Charitable Assistance Fund will also assist New Mexico dentists and their families who continue to need some financial assistance due to such things as a personal tragedy or natural disaster. In addition, the ADA Fund offers educational assistance for dental, dental hygiene, dental assistant and dental technician students.

For more information about either of these options please contact Linda Paul, Executive Director at (505) 298-7206.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Albuquerque Pre-Dent Mentor Dinner A Success

The importance of giving back to the community and the common thread of altruism amongst dental professionals and students alike was the opening message presented by Foundation

*(continued)*

## Calendar

Please join us for  
the next

### New Mexico Dental Foundation Board Meeting

Friday, September 5,  
2008

10:00 am – 4:00 pm  
NMDA Conference Rm.  
Albuquerque, NM

All are welcome.



Save the date!

### 2009 Albuquerque Pre-Dent Mentor Dinner

Friday, January 23.

### The Friends of the Foundation Committee

would like to invite  
community volunteers  
to join us in promoting  
fundraising activities for  
the Foundation. Please  
contact Linda Paul at  
(505) 298-7206 for  
further information.

*The mission of the  
New Mexico  
Dental Foundation  
is to inspire benevolent  
dental outreach and to  
promote dental health in  
New Mexico.*

president, Robert Lehm, at the Fourth Annual Albuquerque Pre-Dent Mentor Dinner. The dinner was sponsored as a fundraiser by the NMDF on January 25th at the Sunport Wyndham Hotel.

Eighteen dentists and 28 pre-dent students from all over the state attended the dinner. Another 32 guests and Foundation staff also attended. There was opportunity to network, set up mentorships, and meet other pre-dent students from across the state.

In addition, Dr. James Strohschein spoke about dental school applications and acceptance of New Mexico students this past year. Dr. Mark Urbane discussed the statewide mentoring program. UNM Pre-Dent Society President Jonah Foutz spoke about the myriad of activities that they participated in this year.

The evening was a huge success and NMDF's mission of providing educational activities for the dental profession was furthered.

## Mission of Mercy

Mission of Mercy is a program that provides free dental care to those who are underserved in one- or two-day events held several times a year. At least seven states currently participate.

At the NMDA House of Delegates meeting in June, a resolution was passed to appoint a task force to investigate the viability of creating a New Mexico Mission of Mercy program here in New Mexico. That task force will present their recommendations to the NMDA Board of Trustees within the year. This program will also be discussed at the Foundation Board meeting in September.

Thank you to **Patterson Dental**, **3M/ESPE**, and the **Savoy** and **Seasons** restaurants for their donations of items used in the drawing at the Foundation booth at the NMDA Annual Meeting in June. What a big help!

Congratulations to Dr. Stephen Wagner who won the Patterson all-expense paid trip to the Scottsdale Dentistry Center, and Dr. James Zamora who won the 3M/ESPE gift basket!

## Donated Dental Services Completes a Banner Year!

The Donated Dental Services Program is currently serving more low income disabled and elderly New Mexicans than ever before. The Foundation's president, Robert Lehm, has been very instrumental in encouraging more dentists to volunteer through the DDS Program, and his efforts have resulted in increased service to needy clients. Although the need for more volunteers remains great, a large thank you to all who are currently volunteering in DDS!

### Fiscal Year 2008 Statistics (ended June 30)

100 elderly or disabled New Mexicans  
completed extensive treatment

\$334,400 in dental treatment was donated  
by dentists

\$19,120 was donated by dental laboratories

76 clients currently in active treatment

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