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## DDS Volunteer Dentist Spotlight

*Drs. Jeffrey and Candice Clark*

She grew up in Oakland City, IN. He grew up in Farmington, NM. They met at the Indiana University School of Dentistry and graduated in May 2005. That same year, they bought a dental practice in Farmington and began practicing general dentistry.

Despite their relatively new practice, both Jeff

and Candice felt that giving back to their community through Donated Dental Services was an important step to take. In addition, they support their local high school athletic programs and other social service agencies. Jeff also loves tennis, Candice plays the piano, and they both ski – plus helping others less fortunate find new smiles.

“I see younger dentists here in Farmington already giving back to programs like the Special Olympics and Donated Dental Services and getting far more in return than they are actually giving to those they are serving,” says Candice. “Our DDS patients are actually giving back to us in so many ways!”

Jeff and Candice are members of the very successful DDS program in

Farmington where approximately 41% of the NMDA dentists are participating in the DDS Program. The average participation for the entire state is only 26%. Consequently, there is a very short waiting list in Farmington for services.

## 2009 Pre-Dent Mentor Dinner Sponsorships Requested

The 2009 Albuquerque Mentor Dinner offers pre-dental students from throughout the state the opportunity to meet and visit with dentists, and will be held on Friday night, January 23, 2009 at the Embassy Suites Hotel. The New Mexico Dental Foundation (a 501(c)(3) organization) hosts this event as a fundraiser. If you would like to sponsor a table at this event please send a check to the NM Dental Foundation today! *A flyer to accompany your check appears separately in the Journal.* Full table sponsorships are \$350 each and acknowledgement of the sponsor will be set at the table and announced at the dinner. Sponsorships of any other amount are welcome also.

## Short Oral Health Messages to Appear on TV

The New Mexico Dental Foundation will sponsor public service announcements (PSAs) that will soon begin to appear on television stations across New Mexico educating children

*(continued)*

## Calendar

Please join us for the next

### Albuquerque Pre-Dent Mentor Dinner

Embassy Suites Hotel  
1000 Woodward Pl NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Friday, January 23, 2009

6:00 – 9:00 pm

RSVP to  
Linda Paul, 298-7206  
or  
lpaul@nmdental.org



and adults alike about good oral health. These announcements will present information on such subjects as proper brushing, flossing, the connection of good oral health to overall physical wellbeing, and the importance of regular dental examinations. The announcements will be run during popular children's programming hours such as early weekend mornings, as well as throughout the evening hours for adults. These high quality public service announcements were prepared and provided to the NMDF by the American Dental Association.

### President's Message from Robert Lehm

By now I am assuming that you have heard of the Mission of Mercy program that is going on around the country. This incredible volunteer effort has brought thousands of people to oral health by the gracious donation of time and money from dental professionals such as you.

These events are typically held on a weekend in large venues where dental professionals come together and serve a population of patients that find it difficult to seek care elsewhere. Thousands have volunteered and tens of thousands have served through the Mission of Mercy program.

I am proud to announce that the New Mexico Dental Foundation, in conjunction with the New Mexico Dental Association, is in the process of assessing this program and the positive impact it could have on the population of New Mexico. A task force has been assembled with members from both organizations to determine the feasibility of conducting a Mission of Mercy program here at home.

This effort comes at a price. The task force is actively pursuing funding

sources to allow this program to take place. Once this information is gathered, the task force will report its findings and make recommendations to the House of Delegates at the 2009 New Mexico Dental Association Annual Session. We are confident that this recommendation will be positive and it is likely that the first New Mexico Mission of Mercy event could take place as early as spring 2010.

Much effort has gone into this task force, and I would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their courage and leadership to move this effort forward: Dr. C. Schumacher, Dr. D. Goad, Dr. G. Willow, Dr. K. Crook, Mr. Mark Moores and Mrs. Linda Paul. These individuals have committed to donating their time to help this task force make a solid recommendation to the House of Delegates.

Ultimately, it will take an army of volunteers to donate their time and services to make this effort a success. We are hopeful that you will join in the enthusiasm that the Mission of Mercy program is creating and consider contributing your time and service once our event is here.

### DDS Patient's Words of Gratitude

Dear Dr. H:

Thank you, thank you, thank you! You and your wonderful staff have given me a gift that I'll be grateful for the rest of my life. Your consummate professionalism has provided me with a wonderful smile! Every time I see myself in the mirror I see your handiwork and it is great!

Allen O.

### 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.*