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NM Dental Foundation Staff Directory

Linda Paul
Executive Director
(505) 298-7206
lpaul@nmdental.org

Trish Rule
NM MOM Program Administrator
(505) 717-1390
Trule@nmdental.org

Susan Cho
Referral Coordinator,
Donated Dental Services
(505) 332-0544
scho@nmdental.org

Tara Dearholt
Administrative Assistant
tdearholt@nmdental.org

P.O. Box 16854
Albuquerque, NM 87191
www.nmdentalfoundation.org
(505) 298-7206

Presbyterian Medical Services, VA Healthcare for Homeless Veterans and the NM Dental Foundation Collaborate To Serve Veterans

Presbyterian Medical Services has recently provided \$25,000 to help the Donated Dental Services Program expand to intentionally serve veterans across the State of New Mexico. Many of these men and women who have so honorably protected our country have been or would be homeless if it were not for the support services being offered them by the VA Healthcare for the Homeless Veterans Program (HCHV) and Presbyterian Medical Services.

Daniel Mintie of the HCHV so aptly states: "A veteran in our homeless program recently told me 'The enemy used to be out there. Now,' he said tapping his chest, 'the enemy is right here.' Today the battle is with his own demons...his mental health issues, his lack of housing and a job, and his mouthful of bad teeth."

Daniel continues "This veteran can't fight this battle with a gun, nor can he or she fight it alone. He fights it with all of us - his therapists, his job coach, his property manager. And now, thanks to the Dental Foundation, with his dentist."

The Veterans Administration does not provide dental care for many homeless, jobless or otherwise financially needy military veterans. Given this gap in assistance, Daniel Mintie approached the Dental Foundation at the recommendation of Dr. Robert Gherardi, a DDS volunteer and his personal dentist, to see

if the DDS Program could collaborate with the VA in helping meet this need. With Daniel's assistance, Presbyterian Medical Services was approached and enthusiastically jumped at the opportunity to provide funding for this worthy endeavor.

Forty six volunteer DDS dentists from across New Mexico have volunteered to serve one more patient through DDS this year – specifically a veteran. There are

already six veterans in active DDS treatment. "This partnership is huge to us," Daniel says. "It's life-changing for our men and women and their families. The Healthcare For Homeless Veterans program is deeply grateful."

With healthy teeth and mouths, veterans can eat, chew, and digest food properly. They can smile again. Many have not smiled for so long. They receive

not just new teeth, but the whole package... great smiles, great jobs, and great housing. These are, of course, all connected. For the dentists and labs involved in this expansion of Donated Dental Services, this is a way to give back to the veterans in the community some of what they have given in serving their country. If you have not already indicated you would like to be involved in this program you can do so by contacting Linda Paul at lpaul@nmdental.org. TOGETHER, the New Mexico VA, Presbyterian Medical Services, and the NM Dental Foundation are helping to change lives, one smile at a time!



CALENDAR of Events

Registration open for NM MOM 2013
www.nmdentalfoundation.org

NMDF Board of Directors Meeting
Friday, September 27, 2013
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
at the NMDA office in Albuquerque

**NM Mission of Mercy,
San Juan County**
September 12 – 15, 2013

Annual NMDF Pre-Dental Mentor Dinner
Friday, November 8, 2013
Embassy Suites Hotel, Albuquerque, 6 – 9:30 pm

Molina/Watson Dental Technologies, Inc.
Third Annual Charity Golf Tournament
Benefiting the New Mexico Dental Foundation
Saturday, April 26, 2014
Sandia Golf Resort, 8:00 am

NM Mission of Mercy, Rio Rancho
October 23-26, 2014





Planning Corner



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Our goal is to be able to provide free dental care to 1,500 to 1,800 patients in only two days, and more donations and sponsors are needed. "When we reach out to individuals and corporations," reports Fundraising Chair Dr. Jennifer Thompson, "it is amazing how many are willing to give of their money and time to this worthy cause. When they hear about the impact of this event – it is hard to not want to be involved."

If you are interested in helping us reach this goal, please contact Dr. Thompson or visit www.nmdentalfoundation.org and follow the NM MOM links.

NM MOM gratefully acknowledges the support from our community and our state, especially San Juan County! San Juan County has committed financial sponsorship in the amount of \$100,000.00. They are also providing use of the McGee Park facility, services from the Sheriff's and Emergency Services Departments and personnel. Their efforts to make the New Mexico Mission of Mercy a reality are greatly appreciated.



VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION TEAM

The first step to volunteering is registration. Marjorie Black and Tammy Neville head up the effort for a smooth and seamless volunteer registration process for the New Mexico Mission of Mercy event in San Juan County. Marjorie and Tammy are each new to NM MOM events, but both enjoy volunteering for worthy causes such as NM MOM. "I felt drawn to the mission (and) I enjoy being part of solutions instead of problems," says Marjorie. Tammy adds, "There is always a need. And I have made life-long friends through volunteering!"

When you are ready to add your name to the list of invaluable volunteers for the next NM MOM event, rest assured these dedicated ladies will be there to answer any questions you may have!



Marjorie Black & Tammy Neville

ConocoPhillips Helps Promote Healthy Smiles

Several ConocoPhillips employees are expected to escort patients and provide other volunteer services during the New Mexico Mission of Mercy (NM MOM) San Juan County Dental Clinic. ConocoPhillips is a primary sponsor of the free clinic, which will be held September 12-15 at the McGee Park Convention Center in Farmington.

Michelle Ahlm, stakeholder engagement specialist for ConocoPhillips, is working on the event planning team and coordinating the recruitment, training and duty assignments for the volunteer patient escorts. This will be the third time Michelle has volunteered for a NM MOM event.



Back (top of stairs): Ashley Thayer, Chandler Wittel, Middle: Mike McGovern, Dave Johnson
Front: Marie Jaramillo, Michelle Ahlm

Past NM MOM clinics that were supported by ConocoPhillips in Albuquerque and Las Cruces have provided more than \$2 million in free dental treatments to more than 3,700 patients from throughout the state.

TRES RIOS DENTAL HYGIENE SOCIETY RAISES FUNDS FOR MISSION OF MERCY

The hygienists of New Mexico continue to broaden their partnership with the NM Dental Foundation "We had pledged to raise at least \$1000 as an organization for the NM MOM event in San Juan County. We actually raised \$1500," said Sherry Paxson, the President of Tres Rios Dental Hygiene Society. Tres Rios is located in Northwestern New Mexico. They sponsored two CE courses for the dental community in their fundraising effort – "Connective Tissue Health" and "Treatment Considerations for Patients with Systemic Conditions". The CE's were well attended.

Sherry Paxson and Tammy Sanderson are co-chairing the Hygienist Lead position for the upcoming NM MOM on September 12-15th. Along with others in the San Juan community they have collectively helped to raise over \$200,000 for Mission of Mercy.

NM MOM 2014 ~SAVE THE DATE~

The New Mexico Dental Foundation Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the fourth NM Mission of Mercy event will be held October 23-26, 2014 at the Santa Ana Star Center in Rio Rancho. Co-chairs for this event, Drs. Doug Sheram and John Crisler, are already working with the NMDF to bring this event to fruition. The response from dental professionals in the Albuquerque/Rio Rancho area to the news of NM MOM returning to this region has been overwhelmingly positive.



Successful

MOLINA/WATSON DENTAL TECHNOLOGIES CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT Provides Funding for Foundation Programs



Dr. Wayne Luco won the Chip the Tooth Contest, taking home a large screen TV!



Left to right
Scott Belonge, Wayne Brooks, Wayne Luco & Isaac Pacheco



Justin Westfall, a DDS patient, showing off his New Smile!

One hundred six golfers helped create new smiles on Saturday, April 27th, at the Sandia Golf Resort. Despite the chilly 7:00AM start to the 2nd Annual Molina/Watson Golf Tournament, it quickly warmed up, the golfers returned to the presentation tent after completing 18 holes energized and smiling, and they were treated to lunch, raffle prizes, and the opportunity to learn more about the NM Dental Foundation. The winning team at this year's event was Dr. Wayne Luco, Isaac Pacheco, Scott Belonge, and Wayne Brooks.

Molina/Watson employees and family worked tirelessly with a volunteer Planning Committee that included Eric Tidmore from Trinity Construction, Dr. Kirk Wondra, and NMDF Board Treasurer, Robert Lehm. Together they collected over \$9000 in raffle items as well as sponsorship for the tournament.

The 2013 Tournament more than doubled in size from the first event in 2011. Given the success, Molina/Watson is already making plans to administrate the next Charity Golf Tournament on April 26th, 2014 at Sandia Resort to once again benefit the NM Dental Foundation.



"We at Molina/Watson would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of the people who helped make the second charity golf tournament benefiting the New Mexico Dental Foundation a success.

Participants from all facets of the dental industry as well as business men and women, friends, and family, came together to benefit the Foundation.

It was our pleasure to again sponsor a golf tournament to raise funds for such a worthwhile cause."