



Patients and Residents Alike Report Good Experiences with Mercy Dental Clinic

Since our Foundation's inception, our board and staff have remained steadfast in our commitment to improve the lives of the poor and underserved and to evaluate our efforts in order to facilitate programmatic changes and measure the impact.

Toward that end, independent evaluator Dr. Catherine Demko has been compiling and analyzing data on the impacts of the Mercy Dental Clinic and the Mercy General Practice Residency in Dentistry Program. At the Foundation's February Board meeting, Dr. Demko presented the results of her analysis, which are summarized below.



In 2007, the Mercy Dental Program was established to provide optimal patient care for the uninsured, underserved, and general populations, as well as a superior education for dental residents. Since its inception, the clinic has trained 37 dental residents and has provided more than 51,000 individual treatments for nearly 9,000 unique patients.

When surveyed, both patients and dental residents reported positive experiences. Just under half of the patients who responded had come to Mercy without a regular source of dental care. They reported that after they became clinic patients, they had much less difficulty in accessing care and were significantly less likely to delay preventive care. Every resident responding to the survey stated that they were well-prepared by the residency program. Many residents said that their experience taught them to value serving the low-income community.

These positive responses are a resounding affirmation that the clinic and residency program have provided much-needed services to many low-income families in Stark County. The additional benefit of giving dental residents an opportunity to work with a diverse client base shows promising benefits for the future.

Tooth Fairy Helps Give Canton Kids a Smile

Earlier this month, the ever-elusive tooth fairy made an appearance. But she didn't hand out money. Instead, she visited five Canton City elementary schools, outfitted grandly in full Tooth Fairy regalia, to spread the word about good oral health. She asked students to pledge to brush their teeth for two minutes, twice a day, and gave out "Two-Minute Pledge" kits containing oral health supplies, books, and a permission slip to allow the child to be screened during Give Kids a Smile Day. Children returning permission slips became eligible for prizes, and if 80% of the students in a school returned their slips, the entire school would receive a pizza party. The promotional materials were made possible through a grant from Healthy Smiles, Healthy Children: The Foundation of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, with matching funds from the Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton.



The American Dental Association established Give Kids a Smile Day. Each year, dentists throughout the country volunteer to provide oral health screenings and education to approximately 450,000 underserved children. Screening children is crucial, especially in low-income areas. More than 16 million American children have untreated tooth decay, and many are from underserved communities. Many children enrolled in Medicaid receive no dental services at all. This year Give Kids a Smile Day was February 7th. Member dentists from the Stark County Dental Society, students from the Stark State Dental Hygiene School, and General Electric employees volunteered to conduct the event.

The promotion efforts appear to have worked; last year, 384 children were screened. Of those, 115 were found to have oral health issues that need attention. This year, 671 were screened and 153 will need attention. Care Coordinator Danielle Bunner (who, coincidentally, moonlighted as the tooth fairy) is working with families to ensure that the children have access to dental care.



Fund Development Workshop is a Success

When Thomas Turner, president of the Mercy Medical Center Foundation, and Marisa Rohn, vice president of marketing and fund development at Goodwill Industries, received small grants from the Foundation to support their participation in the Fund Raising School® offered by the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University, they agreed to partner with the Foundation to plan and present a workshop for the community as a thank you for Foundation support. Participants in

Fund Raising School courses learn a wide range of methods for helping their nonprofit organization achieve its financial goals.

On February 13, Tom and Marisa conducted a workshop at Mercy Hall to graciously share what they learned with nearly 70 area executive directors and fund development specialists. There were many positive comments from participants following the meeting. Thank you to Tom and Marisa for their willingness to share what they learned with so many organizations in our community.

Foundation Welcomes Program Officer Michael Henry

In late 2013, Michael Henry joined our staff. Michael previously served as an International Projects Manager with Cross Catholic Outreach in Florida, where he led a team of program officers administering grants in the Latin America and Caribbean Region.

Michael earned a Bachelor's degree in Economics from John Carroll University and is working towards his Master's degree in Nonprofit Management from Regis University. Welcome, Michael!



Grant Application Process Workshop

April 15, 2014 from 9:00-10:30 a.m.

Reserve a seat by contacting Trudy Brown at (330) 454-5800 or tbrown@scfcanton.org.



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