

CONTACT: Christine Dunbeck, WDA Communications and Public Relations Coordinator

PHONE: 414-755-4110 (direct); 608-698-1309 (cell)

EMAIL: cdunbeck@wda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

1,300+ volunteers from 188 communities to provide free dental care in West Allis

WEST ALLIS, WIS., June 13, 2018 - More than 1,300 <u>volunteers</u> from <u>188 Wisconsin</u> <u>communities</u> will be in West Allis, Wis. on June 22 – 23 to provide \$1 million in free dental care to an estimated <u>2,000 children and adults</u> during the ninth <u>Wisconsin Dental Association</u> and <u>WDA</u> Foundation Mission of Mercy.

Cleanings, fillings, extractions, partial dentures and basic oral hygiene and dietary education will be delivered by 162 volunteer dentists, 333 dental hygienists and dental assistants, 234 Marquette University School of Dentistry students and hundreds of other community helpers.

The 2018 WDA Mission of Mercy will be held at the Exposition Center at Wisconsin State Fair Park, 8200 W. Greenfield Ave., in West Allis.

Doors open at 5:30 a.m. both days. Individuals seeking dental care should line up at the entrance marked "Patient Entrance" located on the south side of the building. Early arrival is encouraged, because available patient slots are typically filled by 10 a.m.

Approximately 1,000 <u>patients</u> will be seen each day on a first-come, first-served basis. There are no appointments.

Individuals of all ages are welcome. Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

No photo identification, Social Security number or other personal identification or documentation required. However, medically-compromising conditions, such as extremely high blood pressure or severe disabilities, may prohibit an individual from receiving care.

Major financial and in-kind support is provided by the <u>Brady Corporation Foundation</u>, <u>Delta Dental of Wisconsin Charitable Fund</u>, <u>The DentaQuest Foundation</u>, <u>Dental Health Products</u>, <u>Inc.</u>, <u>Forest County Potawatomi Foundation</u>, <u>Henry Schein Dental</u>, <u>WDA Supply Source</u> and <u>We Energies Foundation</u>.

The <u>Delta Dental of Wisconsin Charitable Fund</u>, Dr. Tim and Mrs. Sue Durtsche, <u>First Supply</u>, <u>Henry Schein Dental</u>, <u>Kwik Trip</u> and <u>Professional Insurance Programs - a division of WDA Insurance and <u>Services Corp</u>. have supported all nine WDA MOM programs.</u>

VOLUNTEERS FROM 188 WISCONSIN COMMUNITIES PROVIDE FREE DENTAL CARE - 2

<u>Nearly 100 organizations and individuals</u> have contributed tax-deductible financial and in-kind donations to help cover over \$212,000 in costs for equipment and facility rental, supplies, pharmaceuticals and food for this major charitable dental care event which includes setup on June 21.

"The greater Milwaukee area community and other volunteers from across the state are coming together to host this large-scale dental charitable event and provide critical dental care to those who need it most," WDA Mission of Mercy Local Committee Chair Dr. Monica Hebl, a general dentist from Wauwatosa, said.

WDA dentists and other MOM volunteers donate \$6 – \$8 in care for every dollar received. More than 13,715 children and adults have received in excess of \$9.18 million in donated care at WDA Mission of Mercy events since 2009.

Visit the WDA Foundation <u>donor page</u> to help provide financial support to MOM and other charitable care and oral hygiene education outreach efforts.

A <u>multi-language patient flyer</u> and answers to <u>frequently asked patient questions</u> can be found on WDA.org in the Mission of Mercy section under the WDA Foundation tab. Please note: Patients should not wait for the WDA Mission of Mercy to seek care for dental pain, as this could signal a serious condition.

The Wisconsin Dental Association was established in 1870 and has 3,000 member dentists and a number of dental hygienists. With just 3,500 licensed dentists in the state, the WDA is the leading voice for dentistry in Wisconsin. Members are committed to promoting professional excellence and quality oral health care. The WDA Foundation was created as the charitable arm of the association in 1957. A qualified, tax-exempt corporation, the foundation provides scholarships to dental and dental hygiene students, gives financial support to projects providing dental care to the underserved and other dental-related philanthropic endeavors. It also administers Donated Dental Services and helps underwrite the Mission of Mercy program. WDA Foundation is a proud member of Community Health Charities of Wisconsin. For more information, call 414-276-4520, visit our WDA.org website and find us on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Flickr, YouTube and LinkedIn.