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the smile sheet

THE DENTAL FOUNDATION OF OREGON NEWSLETTER

Creating big smiles across Oregon

The Tooth Taxi delivers more than \$500,000 in free dental care in first six months

Launched only a few months ago in September 2008, the Tooth Taxi is already making a tremendous difference in the lives of children throughout Oregon. As of March 31, the Tooth Taxi had delivered \$514,845 in free dental care to 1,853 children in 29 communities.

The Tooth Taxi is the result of a unique partnership among the Dental Foundation of Oregon (DFO), OEA Choice Trust and The ODS Companies. For up to one week at a time, the mobile dental clinic visits schools and community centers,

delivering comprehensive dental care and oral health education to low-income children — and touching the hearts of everyone involved.

“The response to the Tooth Taxi has been outstanding,” said Patrick Nearing, D.M.D. and chair of the DFO board of directors. “Schools have been wonderful partners, connecting us with the children who need the most help, and many dentists and staff members are finding it a great way to support their communities. It’s great for the kids and for dentistry.”

Turn to *MOBILE VAN*, page 3 ►

Oregon's children need you

- Oregon children’s oral health is among the worst in the nation.
- The number of Oregon children with untreated tooth decay jumped 12 percent in the past five years.
- Nearly 56 percent of children 6 to 8 years old have dental decay. The numbers are even higher for low-income families.

Turn to *CHILDREN*, page 3 ►

In challenging times there is hope

Dear friends,

Everywhere I turn these days, I hear hard news about the economy with challenges so overwhelming that it is easy to feel helpless and wonder how any individual with limited resources could ever make a difference. Then I remember the words of the famous anthropologist and humanitarian, Margaret Mead, who said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

The Dental Foundation of Oregon is not trying to change the world, but it is trying to make a difference. It is nothing if not a group of committed and caring individuals who understand that collectively they can do more to help improve the oral health of children than they could by themselves. The combined efforts of our donors and volunteers have allowed us to launch the Tooth Taxi, our state-of-the-art mobile dental van that is featured in this newsletter. Still in only its first year of operation, the Tooth Taxi has provided more than \$500,000 in free dental care to low-income children in schools and community centers across Oregon.

The foundation has given nearly \$1 million to community dental programs, helping to support the platform on which dental volunteers have performed their outstanding service. The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well in Oregon and, not surprisingly, on the

rise during difficult times. We are very pleased to recognize some outstanding volunteers and programs on pages 4 and 6.

Recently, a young mother whose child had been treated on the Tooth Taxi dug into her purse to give us \$2 in change because she wanted to thank us and help other children get the care they need. Her gift was exceptional, not for its size, but because it came with priceless wisdom. She understands, like many of you, that we can accomplish more by pulling together than we can as individuals.

If you are already a part of this community we call the Dental Foundation of Oregon, thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of our children here in Oregon. If not, we invite you to become part of something wonderful and, in doing so, send a message that all Oregon children deserve to live a healthy and happy life.

Thank you,

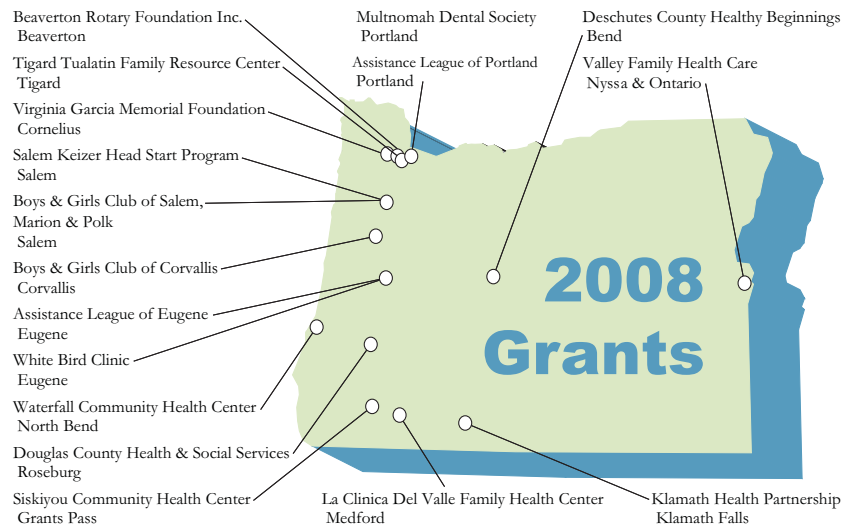
Charlie LaTourette
Executive Director
(503) 594-0881

Foundation grants approach \$1 million mark



Using donations from individual dentists, companies and foundations, the DFO has distributed more than \$966,000 in grants to community dental programs throughout Oregon since 1982. To date, DFO grants have helped provide clinical care and oral health education to well over 200,000 Oregonians.

In 2008 alone, the DFO provided grants to 18 community organizations that delivered treatment and education to more than 20,000 people throughout the state.





- Only 20 percent of Oregon communities have fluoridated water, ranking us No. 48 among the 50 states.
- Oregon educators estimate that nearly 5,000 school children experience dental pain and tooth decay every day in our schools.
- Dental disease is more pervasive than asthma in children, and if left untreated, it can lead to serious health issues and even death.
- Dental disease is not just a cosmetic issue — two years ago, a 12-year-old child died when an untreated infected tooth led to a brain infection.



As of the end of March, 89 volunteers including dentists, hygienists, dental assistants and community coordinators had served on the van, providing well over 580 hours of community service. In fact, some dentists have taken their entire staff to serve for a day.

“Volunteering on the Tooth Taxi was a great experience for me and my staff,” said Dr. Rick Asai, D.M.D. “It was difficult to see so many children with poor oral health, but it felt good to be helping, and I know we made a real difference. My staff had a wonderful time.”

In addition to professional dental volunteers, many school employees and nurses have worked tirelessly to identify children in need of dental care, get parental permission forms signed and coordinate student visits to the Tooth Taxi.



Karen Bateman, secretary to the principal at Jefferson Elementary and Dan Easdale, Kidco Headstart family advocate helped coordinate the Tooth Taxi visit.

“Many of the school district employees have been instrumental in helping make this program successful,” said Holly Spruance, OEA Choice Trust Marketing Representative and school liaison for the Tooth Taxi program. “Schools have been supportive in helping ensure that the students most in need have an opportunity to receive care from the dental team on the Tooth Taxi.”

Families thank Tooth Taxi team

Shannon Richards, whose daughter was treated on the Tooth Taxi, asked Dr. Weston W. Heringer if she could give him a hug. She got up, gave him a hug and started crying. The next day when she brought her son to the van to get care, she brought the staff home-baked muffins and a heartfelt thank you note.



Dear Dr. Heringer + staff—

I want to thank you for the wonderful service you have provided for my children + our family. We are a family with five children + health insurance, but no dental insurance. We have known for some time our children needed attention to their dental needs, but it has been difficult for our budget. As a mother, I have worried + felt guilty regarding this matter, + even just last week I was again wondering how I would fill this need for my family.

Your services have been a wonderful + unexpected blessing. They have eased my mind greatly + I am so very grateful. May you continue your wonderful work + know you are appreciated!

Love,
Shannon Richards
+ family



Meet The Tooth Taxi Team



Dr. Weston W. Heringer, Jr.
*Pediatric Dentist,
Board Certified*

Before joining the Tooth Taxi Team, Dr. Heringer ran the Pediatric Dentistry program at the OHSU School of Dentistry. He is a long-time proponent of community service and is a frequent volunteer locally and internationally. Watching Dr. Heringer work with young children is magical.



Mary Daly,
Program Manager

As the Tooth Taxi program manager, Mary communicates with schools to arrange care for children and with the dental community to recruit volunteers. She organizes the schedule and helps keep the Tooth Taxi running smoothly. She comes to the Tooth Taxi team with years of experience in dental relations, community service and nonprofits.



Geneva Alvord,
Certified Dental Assistant

Geneva is a graduate of Linn-Benton Community College's dental assisting program where she was a member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She has certification for expanded functions, which allows her to do cleanings and sealants on children. Geneva is excited to be working with kids and traveling the state of Oregon.



James Olcott,
Tooth Taxi Assistant

James graduated from the University of Puget Sound in 2008 where he majored in natural science and biology and played football for four years. He spent several months volunteering with the MTI dental van. James is looking forward to working on the Tooth Taxi both as a chairside and administrative assistant, which will be invaluable experience that will help him toward his goal of applying to dental school.

Take time to volunteer on the Tooth Taxi

The Tooth Taxi brings dental care and oral health education to often neglected communities throughout the state and provides care to the children who need it most, and Oregon dentists are doing their part to contribute.



“Dentists have really embraced the Tooth Taxi and are volunteering to serve for full-day or half-day shifts on the van,” said Charlie LaTourette, DFO’s executive director. “Not only are they committed to service, but they also enjoy feeling part of a larger effort to help children throughout Oregon.”

To volunteer on the Tooth Taxi, call Mary Daly at 503-329-8877 or visit www.smileonoregon.org/tooth-taxi to see when the Tooth Taxi is coming to your community.

Awards of excellence

The George A. Ronning Humanitarian Award: Beaverton Rotary

This award is a tribute to the late Dr. George A. Ronning, a leader in the dental community, a caring dentist and a model statesman. The foundation board selects the winner for the Ronning Award from previous grant recipients who exemplify the highest standards and ethical principles in dentistry. This year, the award was given to the Beaverton Rotary Foundation for its annual Dental Check/Dental Aid Day that has provided free dental care to thousands of underserved children for the past 12 years.

Dentist of the Year Award: Dr. Kent Zerr

DFO recognizes one doctor for his or her long-term service and commitment to volunteerism.

An active member of the community, Dr. Zerr has served as an on-board dentist for 52 mobile dental clinics and donated more than \$175,000 in dentistry services to children and adults in the Salem area. He is also the founder of the school safety net program Dental Health Solutions, which provides urgent care for school children.

Healing Hands Award: Robert Cochrane

The foundation recognizes a dental assistant who has made a significant contribution to the community in service of dental care. Cochrane has volunteered as a dental assistant with MTI since 2001, served with more than 390 dental clinics and logged nearly 2,000 volunteer hours assisting dentists and helping thousands of patients get the oral health care they need.

Give a Grin 2008

The foundation's Give a Grin campaign raised \$15,487 with the help of three dental practices and seven individuals. Participating dental offices contributed the proceeds from one day's work to the foundation, and individuals contributed one day's salary.

Give a Grin provides a unique fundraising opportunity for members of the Oregon community who care about improving dental health for less fortunate children. Participants work one day, in their own offices and with their own staff, patients and equipment. It is an opportunity to make a difference without leaving the work place.

Thank you, participants

DENTAL OFFICES

The office of
Dr. David Dowsett, D.M.D.
Kim Burch
Traci Chambers
Julie Rash
Rozanne Sakshaug
Mary Skoien

The office of
Dr. Jay Lamb, D.M.D.
Vesta Baker
Cindy McClure
Julie Mooney
Nicole Standard

The office of
Dr. Patrick Nearing, D.M.D.
Elizabeth Allen
Deana Coppinger
Tammy Dockweiler
Angela Eytchison
Julie White

INDIVIDUALS

Dr. Rick Asai, D.M.D.
 Dr. Ken Berg, D.M.D.
 Dr. Janet Peterson, D.M.D.
 Robert Gootee
 Holly Spruance
 Judy Edgerly
 Charlie LaTourette

Friends of the Foundation Award

The DFO presented three awards to key strategic partners at the Oregon Dental Conference on April 3, 2009, at the Oregon Convention Center.

Dr. Patrick Nearing, D.M.D. and president of the board of the DFO, presented the DFO Friend of the Foundation Award to Maurice Hicks, president of the OEA Choice Trust board of directors, and Dr. David Howerton, D.M.D., board member of The ODS Companies.

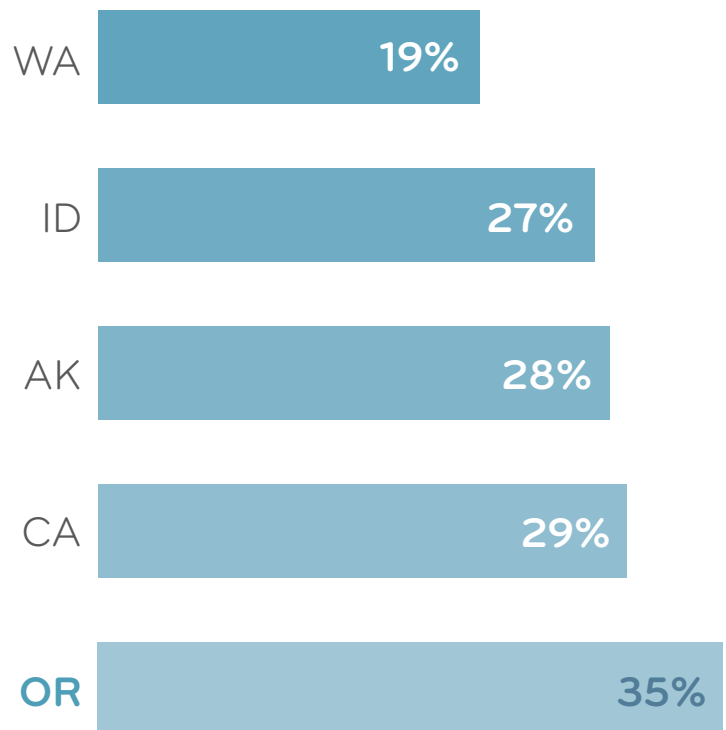


Left to Right:
 Maurice Hicks,
 Dr. Patrick Nearing

The award recognizes their support and unique partnership on the Tooth Taxi mobile dental van.

The DFO also recognized the Oregon Dental Association (ODA) for its continued support of foundation programs, including the Tooth Taxi, and for providing valuable in-kind services. Dr. Jim Catt, D.M.D. and president of the ODA board of trustees, received the award on behalf of the association.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITH UNTREATED TOOTH DECAY



Source: The Oregon Department of Human Services' Smile Survey 2007

Thank you, Tooth Taxi volunteers (as of 3/31/09)

Geneva Alvord
 Dr. Rick Asai
 Joni Banry
 Ciara Barton, R.D.H.
 Mary Lou Beck
 Dr. Andrea Beltzner
 Amy Berg
 Katie Bethel
 Dr. Athena Bettger
 Dr. Michael Biermann
 Kathleen Brady
 Dr. Gerald Brouhard
 Dominique Bryant, R.D.H.
 Dr. Jeff Carl
 Melissa Cheek, R.D.H.
 Sayaka Chujo
 Rachel Coleman, E.F.D.A.
 Dr. Sixto Contreras
 Dr. Robert Darke
 Michele Davidson
 Dr. James Delgado
 Dr. Patricia DeMasi
 Miranda Duncan

Molly Eisele
 Judy Edgerly
 Kathi Engles, R.D.H.
 Dr. Kurt Ferré
 Mandi Funk
 Dr. Mike Goger
 Stephanie Hagerty
 Natalie Hardin
 Leslie Harvey, R.D.H.
 Megan Hedrick
 Dr. Weston W. Heringer, III
 Jennifer Hill
 Dr. Thomas Holt
 Dr. David Howerton
 Dr. Paul M. Jensen
 Jim Jobes
 Dr. Douglas Johnson
 Cara Kao-Young, R.D.H.
 Dr. Gabriel M. Kennedy
 Atsuko Magnuson
 Dr. Cynthia Marshall
 Rhonda McAlister
 Kira Melan

Carmen Miller
 Anne Mills
 Molly Morse, R.D.H.
 Vanessa Nehrkorn, R.D.H.
 Cathy Nelson
 Michelle Nevin
 Ann Nguyen
 Dr. Scott Nicholson
 Kelsey Palmer
 Nicole Pegues
 Patty Peirano
 Dr. Janet Peterson
 Randi Petty
 Iva Pissillo
 Elizabeth Reeser, R.D.H.
 Julie Reynolds
 Dr. Steven Richardson
 Audrey Riesen
 Missy Runyon
 Dr. Alireza Saber
 Shakiba Safari
 Famie Santillian-Chin
 Dr. Chanda Scott

Dr. Corinne Schenk-Anderson
 Dr. Sam Scott
 Yelena Svintsitskiy
 Dr. Roger Sims
 Tabitha Singleton
 Bethany Spence
 Holly Spruance
 Rachel Traaen
 Dr. William S. Ten Pas
 John Van Leeuwen
 Jennie Vu
 Dr. Chris Walker
 Jennifer Wilkeson
 Dr. Henry C Windell
 Dr. Jon Woods
 Louisa Woodworth
 Vanessa Wren
 Dr. Joni D. Young
 William Zepp
 Patricia Zepp





The Tooth Taxi was created through a unique partnership with . . .



THE DENTAL FOUNDATION OF OREGON



www.smileonoregon.org

DFO is the charitable arm of the Oregon Dental Association