



Dental Lifeline  
Network • Mississippi

More than Dentistry. Life.

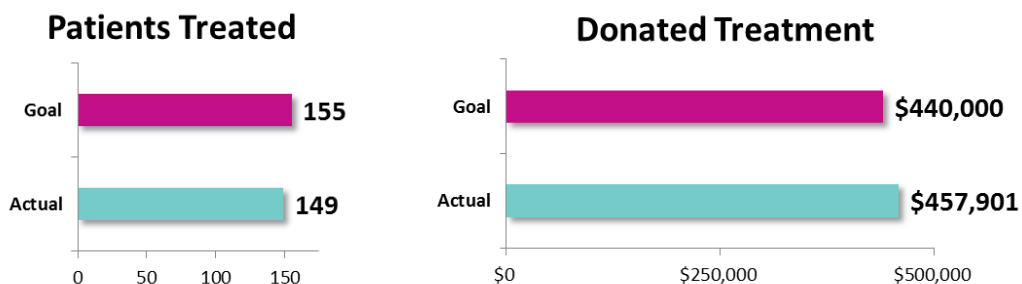
Mississippi  
Donated Dental Services (DDS)

P.O. Box 320636  
Flowood, MS 39232  
601.932.2200  
Toll Free: 800.366.3640  
Fax: 601.932.2270  
www.DentalLifeline.org

## MISSISSIPPI DONATED DENTAL SERVICES (DDS) PROGRAM

Annual Report for July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2015  
Fourth Quarter Report for April 1, 2015 - June 30, 2015

### Performance Snapshot



### Annual Highlights

- 149 patients accessed \$457,901 worth of care.
- \$10.21 worth of care donated for every \$1 spent supporting services.
- 19 new dentists signed up to volunteer.

### The DDS Program in Action

Fifty-five-year-old Ms. B. lives in Madison with her sister and her family. She has Down Syndrome and is legally blind. Ms. B. lived in an abusive environment for many years, until her sister became her legal guardian and now cares for her day-to-day needs. All of Ms. B.'s teeth had been extracted but sadly, her family was unable to afford dentures to replace them. Without teeth, she struggled to eat a regular diet and desperately needed help.

Ms. B. receives a small Social Security benefit that goes toward her living expenses. Her sister suffers from multiple sclerosis, and with bills of her own, she was unable to afford expensive dental care for Ms. B. It seemed the care she needed was a luxury beyond her reach.

Thankfully, Ms. B.'s regular dentist volunteers for the DDS program and offered to evaluate her oral health. Then, two more volunteer dentists agreed to help. An oral surgeon donated two implants under IV sedation and a general dentist donated full dentures. A volunteer laboratory assisted by discounting the denture fabrications. **Thanks to this incredibly generous team, Ms. B. received \$7,836 in free care that she could not afford on her own!** Her sister shares that she smiles all the time and her speech has improved. She wrote to express their appreciation.

*"My sister now has a beautiful smile and is able to fully enjoy more of life's pleasures with no difficulty. Her mental difficulties already placed her in a difficult position. The Dental Lifeline Network was able to assist in finding several dentists that were not afraid of a challenge and worked together to make her self-confidence rise 150%. We thank Dental Lifeline for making her life a brighter place."*

#### Please Note:

You have a special relationship with Dental Lifeline Network! To ensure you receive our occasional email notifications, please click on the link below or type it into your browser to sign up. **Even if you currently receive this report by email**, an additional sign-up is necessary to receive e-Newsletters. It takes less than a minute!

<http://bit.ly/signupDLN>  
(case-sensitive)

## Program History

- Established in 1995 with Mississippi Dental Association
- 2,082 total patients served
- \$5,089,790 in total care donated by volunteers
- Statewide Volunteer Network: 210 dentists and 36 labs

## Accomplishments

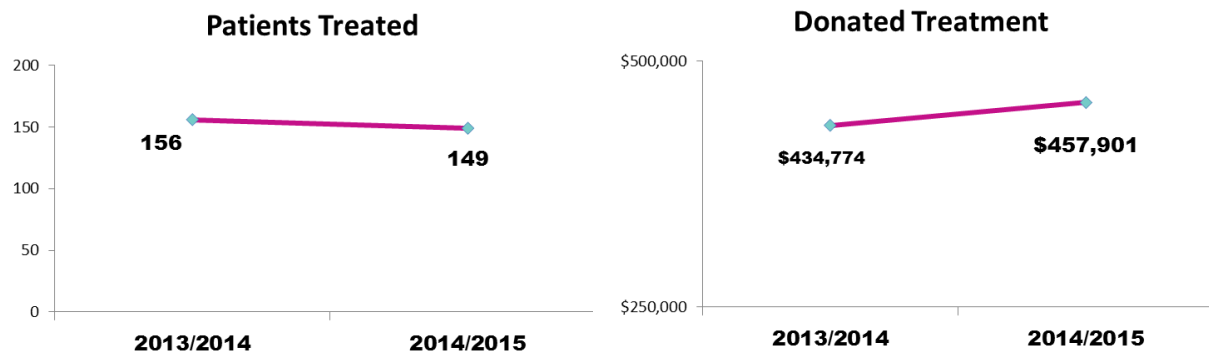
The DDS program exists to help individuals with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile and cannot afford or otherwise access treatment for severe dental conditions. Mississippi's DDS program is part of a national network of similar programs in 42 other states. Collectively these programs helped 7,456 individuals access nearly \$25.5 million in services during the fiscal year.

**Goal:** Help 155 people with disabilities or who are aged or medically fragile receive \$440,000 worth of comprehensive dental care during the fiscal year, including \$46,000 in laboratory fabrications.

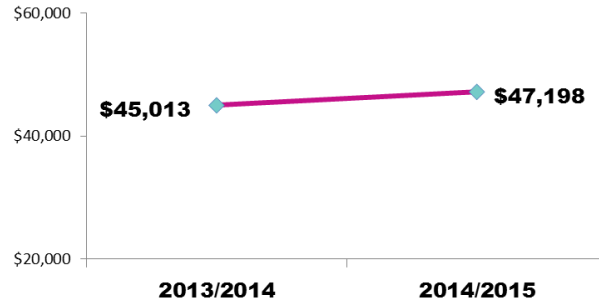
**Results:** 149 patients received \$457,901 of treatment, including \$47,198 in lab fabrications; more care for six fewer patients than anticipated. (Eight of these patients received \$4,347 in routine care from volunteer dentists who had donated the patients' initial treatment and wanted to continue providing ongoing, maintenance services.) Each patient treated (with the exception of the eight patients receiving ongoing maintenance services) received an average of \$3,217 worth of dental treatment; comprehensive care that illustrates the generosity of the volunteer dentists and labs.

At the end of the June 30<sup>th</sup> reporting period, 74 individuals had been referred to volunteer dentists and were receiving care (i.e., active patients). (Some of the 149 patients treated this fiscal year are still undergoing treatment and are included in the 74 active cases.)

As the graphs below indicate, we treated slightly fewer patients but generated more donated treatment this fiscal year compared to last fiscal year.



## Donated Lab Services



## Applications

We received 170 applications during the fiscal year, and at the end of the June 30<sup>th</sup> reporting period, 190 people were waiting to be referred to a volunteer. The wait list includes people who applied this fiscal year as well as during prior years.

When the waiting list gets too long, the Coordinator spends a significant amount of time processing new applications and responding to people requesting applications; time that instead could be spent referring people to dentists and coordinating services. We continually monitor the waiting list and assess whether and where we can accept applications. Doing so helps the Coordinator process applications more efficiently so she has sufficient time to refer people to the volunteers. Currently, we are only able to accept applications in the following counties:

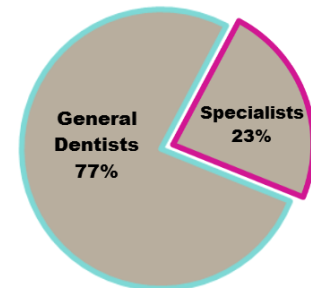
Forrest  
Lauderdale  
Lee

Jones  
Warren

## Volunteers

The volunteers are the backbone of the program, and we are truly grateful to the **210 dentists** and **36 dental laboratories** that participate statewide.

With so many volunteer dentists, one might think that most of the pending applicants could be paired with a volunteer reasonably soon. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Most volunteer dentists treat just one patient at a time and due to the comprehensive nature of the treatment provided, may thus only treat one patient annually. And, 49 of the volunteers are specialists who may not be called upon every year, leaving 161 general dentists to accept initial referrals. With 149 patients treated this fiscal year, 74 active cases and 190 individuals on the wait list, more volunteers are needed. Thankfully, 19 new dentists signed up to volunteer during the fiscal year.



We are working with the Mississippi Dental Association to explore ways to heighten awareness for the program and promote volunteering to MDA member dentists. In addition, we are expanding the Leadership Council that focuses on volunteer recruitment.

Many dental laboratories also volunteer for the Mississippi DDS program. Along with the 36 labs physically located in

**18%**  
Mississippi dentists who  
volunteer for DDS

**12%**  
National Average

Mississippi, 17 additional out-of-state labs that are part of Dental Lifeline Network's national cadre volunteered to help Mississippi DDS patients this fiscal year. We truly appreciate the generous efforts of all of our volunteers.

Dental Lifeline Network has partnered with dental schools nationally to recognize senior dental students who have demonstrated a commitment to help people with special needs or as community volunteers. This initiative aims to increase our visibility among students whom we hope can become DDS volunteers. The awards are made possible through the Brian D. Stone Memorial Fund, established by Drs. Joy and Justin Stone of New Jersey. Dr.

Katherine Lee Curtis from the University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Dentistry is this year's recipient.

*"We like the program because it does help people in need. I think DDS does a great job finding a dentist and oral surgeon to work together."*

*- Dr. P. of Baldwyn, a DDS volunteer since 2008.*

## Staffing

The Coordinator determines applicant eligibility, links patients with nearby volunteer dentists, monitors patient progress and arranges laboratory services and the help of specialists as necessary. The Coordinator resolves any problems that may interfere with care and ensures all parties have a positive experience.

Earlier this fiscal year, we welcomed Ms. Michelle Aiken back as the DDS Coordinator. Ms. Aiken had served in this role until the end of the 2012-2013 fiscal year and we are pleased to have her return. Ms. Aiken works 30 hours per week from her home office in Tennessee. Since she communicates with patients, dentists and labs via telephone and mail, not having a local Coordinator is usually invisible to the consumers and volunteers.

## Financial Information

**During the fiscal year, volunteers donated \$10.21 in care for every dollar spent supporting contributed services!** While the volunteer dentists and many of the dental laboratories donate their services, we must raise funds to support their efforts and pay for the DDS Coordinator, lab reimbursements when we cannot find labs to donate, office supplies and other program expenses.

**\$10.21**  
in care donated for  
every \$1 spent

Since the program's inception, the Division of Medicaid has generously provided the monies needed to support the volunteers' efforts. We thank Representatives Sam Mims, Toby Barker, Beckie Currie, Steve Holland, Bobby Moak, Herb Frierson and Preston Sullivan and Senators Dean Kirby, Hob Bryan, Buck Clarke, Terry Burton, Hillman Frazier, and Videt Carmichael for their vital support of the DDS program.

## Future Plans

In the next fiscal year—July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016—our goal is to help 194 people with disabilities or who are aged or medically fragile receive at least \$575,000 worth of free dental care, including \$60,000 worth of donated laboratory fabrications.