RHODE ISLAND DONATED DENTAL SERVICES (DDS) PROGRAM

ANNUAL REPORT

Activities from July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Funded by the Rhode Island Dental Association and its Members & Components, Delta Dental of Rhode Island, the June Rockwell Levy Foundation, the Foundation of the Pierre Fauchard Academy and the Shapiro Family Foundation

Performance Snapshot

Patients Treated

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>98</td>
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Donated Treatment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Actual</th>
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<td>$320,000</td>
<td>$341,118</td>
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Annual Highlights

- 98 patients accessed $341,118 worth of care.
- $6.39 worth of care donated for every $1 spent supporting volunteers.

The DDS Program in Action

Fifty-seven-year-old Mr. P. lives with a friend in East Providence. In addition to having Barrett’s Esophagus, gastroesophageal reflux disease and a hiatal hernia, Mr. P. is a Navy veteran who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. Due to his esophageal problems, he has a difficult time keeping food down, and the stomach acid destroyed the enamel on his teeth. The VA extracted all of Mr. P.’s teeth, and he believed he qualified for full dentures. Then, Mr. P. learned that he would have to pay for dentures, but sadly, he could not afford them.

Following his discharge from the military, he worked in demolition for many years until he was injured on the job and could no longer work. Now, he depends on food stamps and the kindness of friends. Without any teeth, he was unable to chew his food which exacerbated his health issues. He desperately needed dentures but had nowhere to turn for help.

Thankfully, the VA referred Mr. P. to the DDS program and two generous volunteers came to his aid. Dr. A. donated full upper and lower dentures and a volunteer lab fabricated the dentures at no charge. **Thanks to this kind team, Mr. P. received more than $2,000 in free care that restored his smile and his ability to chew!** He wrote to express his appreciation.
“My situation bothered me to the point where I would isolate myself. I would like to thank you and your staff for helping me. I cannot thank you enough for restoring me to a quality of life I’ve wanted for years. All I have is praise (for the Coordinator) for the job he did for me, the speed he was able to find a dentist that would help me and the honest way he got the job done. I thank you so much.”

Program History

- Established in 1989 with the Rhode Island Dental Association
- 2,769 total patients served
- $5,398,913 in total care donated by volunteers
- Statewide Volunteer Network: 159 dentists and 38 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. Rhode Island’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 100 people with disabilities or who are aged or medically fragile receive $320,000 worth of comprehensive dental care during the fiscal year, including $28,000 in laboratory fabrications.

Results: 98 patients received $341,118 of treatment, including $32,420 in lab fabrications; more treatment for just two fewer people than expected! (Twenty patients received $61,654 in routine care from volunteer dentists who had donated the patients’ initial treatment and wanted to continue contributing ongoing, maintenance services.) Each patient treated (with the exception of the 20 patients receiving ongoing maintenance services) received an average of $3,583 worth of dental treatment; comprehensive care that illustrates the generosity of the volunteer dentists and labs.

At the end of the June 30th reporting period, 69 individuals had been referred to volunteer dentists and were receiving care (i.e., active patients). (Some of the patients treated during the fiscal year are still undergoing treatment and are included in the 69 active cases.)

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

We received 133 applications during the fiscal year, and at the end of the June 30th reporting period, 29 people were waiting to be referred to a volunteer.

Volunteers

The volunteers are the backbone of the program and we are truly grateful to the 159 dentists and 38 dental laboratories that participate statewide. Rhode Island has one of the highest dentist participation rates among 42 DDS programs nationwide.

With 159 volunteer dentists, it may seem as though we could treat 159 patients annually. 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, of the 159 volunteer dentists, 51 are specialists, leaving 108 general dentists to handle the initial referrals. With 98 patients treated during the fiscal year, 69 active cases, and 29 applicants on the wait list, the general dentists are nearly fully utilized.

Many dental laboratories also volunteer for the Rhode Island DDS program. Along with the 38 labs physically located in Rhode Island, 11 out-of-state labs that are part of Dental Lifeline Network’s national cadre volunteered to help Rhode Island Carolina DDS patients during the fiscal year. We truly appreciate the generous efforts of all of our volunteers.

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. Most importantly, the Coordinator resolves any problems that may interfere with care and ensures all parties have a positive experience.
For more than 10 years, Ms. Michelle Palmer served as the DDS Coordinator and managed day-to-day services for 18 hours per week. Ms. Palmer resigned in early September to pursue a full-time opportunity. An experienced Coordinator from another DDS program managed services until we found a permanent replacement. Mr. Matt McLaren was hired in mid-November and trained at our national office in Denver. He quickly made a positive contribution and services began to increase shortly after he took over the role.

Mr. McLaren works from an office generously donated by the Rhode Island Dental Association which supports DDS in many significant ways.

Financial Information

During the fiscal year, volunteers donated $6.39 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.

The Rhode Island Dental Association has asked its members to each contribute to the DDS program through its dues billing. As a result, RIDA members contribute significantly to support program activities, as do many of the Association’s component dental societies. Further, Delta Dental of Rhode Island generously matches these donations for every dollar contributed. Also, the June Rockwell Levy Foundation, the Foundation of the Pierre Fauchard Academy and the Shapiro Family Foundation awarded generous grants during the fiscal year. Also, in October, Dental Lifeline Network was the beneficiary of a comedy night fundraiser at the West Warwick Elks Lodge that was attended by 120 people. And in May, Arrowhead Dental Associates held a 5K “Miles for Smiles” run that raised more than $5,000 for the DDS program.