Gloria, 62, of Columbia, experienced domestic violence as a young woman. After being shot in the mouth, she survived and returned to her job with AT&T for 20 years until heart disease and other disabilities forced her to retire.

Gloria was in a great deal of pain from trauma to her jaw. Eating was very difficult and her 15-year-old dentures no longer were functional due to bone loss. Gloria needed implants to secure dentures, but treatment was far more than she could afford. Five volunteers for Dental Lifeline Network’s Donated Dental Services (DDS) program came to Gloria’s rescue. Dr. Joseph Park, an oral surgeon, donated a bone graft with material from Zimmer Biomet and two implants from Nobel Biocare, both dental manufacturers that contribute to DDS. Dr. David Lovit, a volunteer general dentist, fitted Gloria with upper and lower dentures from Sherer Dental Lab, one of 35 labs that donate fabrications to South Carolina DDS. Now Gloria can eat all the foods she likes without chopping them into small pieces.

“Dr. Park and his office were kind and caring and they encouraged me, because it took a long time. Dr. Lovit took my health into consideration, listened to me and gave me great treatment. The DDS coordinator worked tirelessly with me. It was a great experience. I have a lunch group and I couldn’t order what I wanted to. Now I can chomp on fresh fruit and vegetables. I like a crunch.” – Gloria, DDS patient

“DDS is a very nice service that we as dentists can provide and give back to the community. Gloria’s diagnostic phase and treatment, including implant surgery, took a long time. All the follow-through by DDS made everything go smoothly. I appreciated getting all the parts and lab fees donated by DDS. All we had to do was the treatment.”

– Dr. Lovit, DDS volunteer
Last year, 110 volunteer dentists and 35 volunteer labs treated 67 people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile.

Volunteer Today

Try one case:
• Review the patient profile in advance
• Choose to see or decline any patient
• Determine the treatment plan
• See patients in your office
• Never pay lab costs
• No paperwork for office staff

DDS will:
• Ensure that patients arrive on time
• Be the liaison between your staff and the patient to facilitate everything
• Arrange for assistance from specialists and laboratories

A great staff experience

“Helping DDS patients with their oral health and smiles is rewarding, not only for the patient but, for the entire dental team. We are honored to be part of it.” — Dr. Melodie Jones

You treat the patient.
DDS does everything else.

To ask questions or to volunteer, contact Coordinator Dawn Peltier at 803.726.4522 or dpeltier@DentalLifeline.org

SOUTH CAROLINA DONATED DENTAL SERVICES (DDS)

Fiscal Year 2014-2015

PATIENT TREATMENT
Number of Patients Treated ......................................................... 67
Number of Patients on Wait List .................................................. 216
Number of Volunteer Dentists ...................................................... 110
Number of Volunteer Labs .......................................................... 35

FINANCIAL
Value of Care to Patients Treated .................................................. $235,199
Average Value of Treatment/Case .............................................. $3,553
Value of Donated Lab Services ..................................................... $29,182

SINCE SOUTH CAROLINA PROGRAM INCEPTION (1998)
Total Patients Treated ................................................................. 175
Total Value of Care to Patients Treated ....................................... $688,614

1 Of this amount, two patients received $4,254 in ongoing care from DDS volunteer dentists who provided these patients with initial restorative treatment and have elected to continue providing routine and ongoing care.

2 Does not include treatment for patients receiving ongoing care.

3 Value also included in Value of Care to Patients Treated.

South Carolina Donated Dental Services (DDS) is a program of Dental Lifeline Network, a national humanitarian organization providing access to comprehensive dental care for society’s most vulnerable people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile and have no other way to get help. Nationally, DDS has more than 15,000 volunteer dentists and 3,700 volunteer laboratories.
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