



For Immediate Release

Grant to Dental Lifeline Network • Kansas Supports Treatment for People in Need

Denver, Colo. – February 29, 2016 A \$7,900 grant to Dental Lifeline Network • Kansas from Delta Dental of Kansas will help cover the cost of denture fabrications for vulnerable people through the Donated Dental Services (DDS) program during fiscal year 2015-2016. The grant is a continuation of \$17,000 in support from Delta Dental or its previous foundation.

The funds will be used to pay for 24 full sets of dentures, 28 partial dentures and additional fabrications from the Topeka Correctional Facility dental lab. These fabrications support the work of 343 DDS volunteer dentists and supplement donations from 58 volunteer laboratories. DDS volunteer dentists donate comprehensive treatment to people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile. Each dollar dedicated to the program generates \$9.44 in donated care.

“Continued support from Delta Dental helps make it possible to deliver care through our volunteers to patients in severe need of dental therapies,” said Dr. Cynthia Sherwood, president of Dental Lifeline Network • Kansas which was founded through a partnership with the Kansas Dental Association. Delta Dental’s donation supplements the \$70,000 provided by the state through a grant from the Kansas Bureau of Oral Health – Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

State funds granted to DDS cover patient screening, coordination and the scheduling of dentists, specialists and laboratories, so that dentists can focus on providing patient care in their offices on their own schedule.

“With help from the state and from Delta Dental, we anticipate that up to 218 people will receive \$700,000 in dental treatment during the current fiscal year,” Dr. Sherwood noted.

The Kansas DDS program has provided over \$10 million in donated services to more than 3,262 patients since it began in 1996. It is part of a national network that has generated more than \$300 million in services to 120,000 patients through DDS since 1986.

The DDS program is a safety net for people who suffer daily from severe dental disease, often with negative impact on their general health, and have no access or financial means to afford dental care.

Dentists and laboratories can volunteer for DDS by contacting Program Coordinator Cayla Lloyd at clloyd@DentalLifeline.org or (785) 273-1900. It also is possible to volunteer, make a donation or learn more about Dental Lifeline Network by visiting www.DentalLifeline.org.

A Kansas Case Study

With help from the Kansas Bureau of Oral Health – Kansas Department of Health and Environment and Delta Dental of Kansas, Dental Lifeline Network • Kansas is able to help people like Therese of Garden City through its Donated Dental Services (DDS) program.

Therese, age 55, has rheumatoid arthritis, migraines and was born with a cleft palate. She also suffered from continuous pain from decay and misaligned teeth. Therese occasionally had been seen by a dentist, but could not afford treatment. The dentist is a volunteer for Kansas Donated Dental Services (DDS), operated by Dental Lifeline Network • Kansas. His staff recommended that she apply for DDS. After Therese was accepted, the dentist donated the dentures that she needed with help from a dental laboratory. Today Therese can chew her food, her speech has improved and she no longer is embarrassed to smile.

“I am really, really happy with the outcome. I love that I can smile and not have to cover my mouth. I owe it all to the dentist who donated my care and to DDS.” – Therese, DDS patient

Photo Caption: Therese with her DDS volunteer dentist

About Dental Lifeline Network • Kansas

Dental Lifeline Network • Kansas is a dental charity and part of a national network providing access to comprehensive dental care for people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile. For more information, visit www.DentalLifeline.org.

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