The Story
Charlene, 73, is a widower who lives alone in the Minneapolis area. She has five children living all over the country and loves when they are able to come visit. She has filled her entire front yard with pink flamingos and they bring her so much joy to see every morning.

Charlene suffers from several health challenges including diabetes, neuropathy, fibromyalgia, high blood pressure, as well as limited use of her arms and hands due to arthritis. In addition, Charlene's oral health was in poor condition. Many of her teeth were missing or broken at the gum line and she often found it difficult to eat and occasionally experienced throbbing pain in her gums.

Before retiring, Charlene worked in carpentry as a cabinet maker. Now she survives on a small Social Security benefit and struggles to make ends meet. Unfortunately she could not afford the extensive dental treatment she desperately needed. It seemed she had nowhere to turn for help.

How DDS Helped
Fortunately, Charlene was referred to the Donated Dental Services (DDS) program and she was linked with a team of generous volunteers.
- Dr. Tanya Schulz Peterson donated full upper denture and lower cast metal partial denture.
- Oral Surgeon Dr. Richard Pihlstrom performed nine extractions.
- Academy Dental Laboratory fabricated the dentures at no cost.
- Karas Dental Laboratory donated the lower cast metal frame.

“I just don’t know how to thank everyone for this life-changing experience. I am so happy with my new teeth and love that I can eat meat again! Thank you!”
—Charlene, DDS Patient

Dentist Graduate Honored
Dental Lifeline Network partners with dental schools through the Brian D. Stone Memorial Award to recognize graduating students who are committed to volunteerism or to helping people with special needs. At the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, the 2018 recipient was Dr. Hannah Rutten pictured below with Dr. Stephen Litton, DLN • MN Advisory Council.
Minnesota Donated Dental Services (DDS)
DDS is a Program of Dental Lifeline Network • Minnesota and the Minnesota Dental Association

Fiscal Year 2017-2018

Patient Treatment

- 258 Patients Served
- 261 Patients on Wait List
- 425 Volunteer Dentists
- 94 Volunteer Labs

Financial

- Value of Care to Patients Treated: $1,038,787
- Average Value of Treatment/Case: $5,929
- Value of Donated Lab Services: $103,586

Since Minnesota Program Inception (2003)

- Total Patients Treated: 2,122
- Total Value of Care to Patients Treated: $11,448,062

1 Average value is based on patients that have completed comprehensive treatment; does not include active patients, or patients who continue to receive ongoing care from their DDS volunteer.
2 Value also included in Value of Care to Patients Treated.

Our National Annual Report is Available Online - please visit www.dentallifeline.org/annualreport to review.

Sponsors and Funders:
Minnesota Dental Association
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Dental Lifeline Network • Minnesota
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