



YOU CAN CHANGE LIVES!

Through Dental Lifeline Network, the Colorado Donated Dental Services (DDS) program, offers comprehensive dental treatment to people with disabilities or who are age 65 or older, or medically fragile and cannot afford care.

At age 52, Terry was residing in an assisted living facility, due to developmental disabilities resulting from a remote anoxic brain injury. He also has end stage renal disease and receives dialysis treatments at a facility three times per week, but is not eligible for a kidney transplant. Adding to Terry's health ailments, he had no upper teeth, only nine lower teeth and no access to dental care.

Dr. Eric Van Zytveld, a 25-year Denver DDS volunteer and Dental Lifeline Network Colorado board member, came to Terry's rescue by referring him to Colorado DDS. Dr. Van Zytveld, a general dentist, donated two extractions, four restorations and full upper and partial lower dentures.

“Terry is the nicest person you'd ever want to meet. He needed a clean bill of health so he could undergo surgery. We taught him how to take better care of his mouth. Getting his teeth back made a huge difference in the way Terry felt about himself and his oral health. The reason I've volunteered for DDS for so long is because the patients are so appreciative.”

– Dr. Eric Van Zytveld

Dr. Van Zytveld also has a message for dentists who are thinking about volunteering for DDS:

“The satisfaction you get from being able to help other people is beyond compare. My entire staff feels so much better about their ability to impact someone's life and they really get involved when they see the huge need these people have.”



Terry (left) with Denver Donated Dental Services (DDS) volunteer Dr. Eric Van Zytveld

Medically fragile patients often need dental care to qualify for lifesaving or life-sustaining treatments such as chemotherapy, joint replacement, cardiac surgery and organ transplants. For those who qualify for Medicare, that program may cover their medical treatments, but Medicare does not cover dental treatment. Although some dental procedures are covered through Medicaid, many individuals who cannot afford dental care they desperately need are not eligible for the Medicaid program.

Volunteer Now!

In the metro Denver area, 209 dentists volunteer for DDS, but more volunteers are always needed. Nearly 100 people are on waiting lists. You can treat one patient per year or as many as you choose.

A DDS coordinator ensures that patients arrive on time for appointments, arranges for

assistance from specialists and laboratories, and serves as the liaison between your staff and the patient.

Volunteering is easy - Your staff will love the experience!

- Patients are prescreened.
- Review the patient profile in advance and choose to see or decline any patient.
- Determine your own treatment plan.
- See patients in your office on your schedule.
- Never pay lab costs.
- No extra paperwork for your staff.

Volunteers say they never expected how much their staff appreciates the DDS experience. Staff members celebrate the success of patients and value the teamwork they provide with their dentists.

For more information about volunteering, contact Denver DDS Coordinator Kevin McGrellis at (303) 534-3931 or kmcgrellis@DentalLifeline.org, or visit DentalLifeline.org/colorado. ■

About Dental Lifeline and DDS

Donated Dental Services (DDS) is the flagship program of Dental Lifeline Network, a national nonprofit organization and a charitable affiliate of the American Dental Association. Now 30 years old, the DDS program was founded in Colorado where it has provided more than \$27 million to 11,600 patients. Nationally, DDS has provided \$300 million in donated care to more than 107,000 patients in 50 states and Washington D.C.



**Dental Lifeline
Network**

More than Dentistry. Life.

