



## **DONATED DENTAL SERVICES REACHES \$5 MILLION MILESTONE FOR FREE DENTAL CARE FOR RHODE ISLANDERS!**

Dental Lifeline Network – Rhode Island, also known as the Donated Dental Services program (DDS) is dedicated to the premise that all people, whatever their physical and mental abilities, deserve a pain-free mouth and a healthy smile.

The mission of the Donated Dental Services program is to make oral health care accessible to disabled, aged and medically compromised RI residents who are without the means to pay for, or otherwise access dental treatment for serious dental problems.

Countless disabled, aged, or ill Rhode Islanders suffer from poor oral health because they cannot afford dental treatment. As a result of their ages, or disabilities, many cannot work and must depend on government programs for health care. Medicare, however, does not cover dental treatment and Rhode Island's Medicaid program limits dental benefits for adults. Consequently, many vulnerable Rhode Islanders live with painful and unsightly dental conditions and have nowhere else to turn for help. Some patients require immediate dental treatment in order to make them eligible for crucial medical treatment such as organ transplant and joint replacements. Severely decayed teeth and untreated gum disease can have a direct effect on overall health including heart attacks, stroke, diabetes, pre-term and low weight births, and other diseases.

The Donated Dental Services program is delighted to celebrate 25 years of helping disabled, aged and medically compromised RI residents. To date, over 360 dentist volunteers and 64 dental labs have donated over 5 million dollars of dental treatment in private dental offices for 2,800 Rhode Islanders.

Patients who qualify for the program are treated like any other patient in the private dental office. The dentist decides what treatments are needed and schedules the patient during regular business hours. If a specialist or dental lab is needed, the program coordinator handles the case for the patient. This is all at no charge to the patient.

Things that many of us take for granted; the ability to comfortably chew food, absence of pain, or a pleasant smile are made possible by the Donated Dental Services program. On behalf of people who slip through the cracks, who do not have financial resources, insurance or government entitlement to receive oral care, we want to thank ALL of our volunteer dentists, dental laboratories and monetary contributors.

And, a special recognition to our financial contributors over the years whom without their help, there would be no DDS program: Members of the Rhode Island Dental Association, Delta Dental of Rhode Island, the Pierre Fauchard Academy, June Rockwell Levy Foundation, Shapiro Family Foundation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Foundation.

Dr. Marty Nager, president  
Dental Lifeline Network – RI Donated Dental Services

For more information, or to apply visit (click below):  
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