



News Release

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NINTH ANNUAL OKLAHOMA MISSION OF MERCY EVENT ANNOUNCED

Free two-day dental clinic for people of all ages offered February 2 and 3 at the Choctaw Event Center in Durant

DURANT (January 19, 2018) — The [Oklahoma Mission of Mercy](#) announced its ninth annual event, a free two-day dental clinic for people of all ages. Durant will host this year's event at the Choctaw Event Center on February 2 and 3. The event space will be transformed into a fully-functional dental facility with more than 1,500 volunteer dental and general professionals offering a variety of services including cleanings, fillings, extractions, root canals on front teeth and limited ways to improve the smile line at no cost to patients.

“During the two-day event, there is no place on earth where there will be more dentistry taking place than in Durant on February 2 and 3,” said 2018 Oklahoma Mission of Mercy chair Dr. Mathew Hookom. “Oklahoma dentists recognize there is such a need for care that hundreds of dental professionals come together at this yearly event to help those with the greatest need.”

About half of Oklahomans lack dental insurance. For many, the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy is a life-changing event. Dentists and other volunteers treat an average of 1,700 patients per event, and since 2010, the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy has treated 13,497 patients, totaling \$10 million in donated dental services.

“We know that tens of thousands of Oklahomans do not have access to vital dental services,” Delta Dental of Oklahoma President and CEO John Gladden said. “Our aim is to provide immediate relief for Oklahomans, and the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy fills a crucial role in our state. We also recognize the continued need for consistent, accessible dental care in our communities.”

Patients are advised to arrive early as treatment will be given on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no eligibility or income requirement to seek treatment. Courtesy indoor line formation opens at 8 p.m.

on Thursday, February 1 and again at 8 p.m. on Friday, February 2. Treatment begins at 5 a.m. on February 2 and 3.

Oklahoma Mission of Mercy is produced by the Oklahoma Dental Association, the Oklahoma Dental Foundation and the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Foundation.

The Oklahoma Dental Association, founded in 1907, has a membership of more than 1,600 dentists. The Association was established to help foster an awareness of the obligations and responsibilities of the dental profession to society, to help advance the art and science of dentistry, and to promote public health and health services in the State of Oklahoma. For more information about the ODA, visit www.okda.org and to find a dentist, visit <https://findadentist.ada.org/>.

The Oklahoma Dental Foundation improves the oral health of Oklahomans by funding scientific research, supporting dental education, and increasing patient access to care. For more information, visit www.okdf.org.

The Delta Dental of Oklahoma Foundation is the philanthropic affiliate of Delta Dental of Oklahoma and is the state's single largest contributor to dental health and education-related projects and initiatives. For more information, visit www.ddokfoundation.org.

Editor's Note: For high-res photos and video of previous events, contact Katy@goodengroup.com. Reporters are invited to follow the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy on Twitter [@OkDentalMission](https://twitter.com/OkDentalMission) and Like the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy on Facebook [@oklahomamissionofmercy](https://www.facebook.com/oklahomamissionofmercy) for the latest news.