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## Volunteers Needed in OKC for the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy

*Free Dental Clinic is Seeking Volunteers of all Professions*

**OKLAHOMA CITY (October 15, 2018)** – The Oklahoma Dental Association (ODA) is seeking volunteers of all backgrounds, training and experience for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Oklahoma Mission of Mercy (OkMOM) on February 1-2, 2019, in the Oklahoma Expo Hall at State Fair Park. It will take more than 1,500 volunteers to execute this free dental clinic. Volunteers needed include dentists, hygienists, assistants, front office staff, dental technicians, physicians and hundreds of non-healthcare volunteers. These volunteers will help with everything from patient and volunteer hospitality to language translation.

“Thousands of volunteers give their time to this two-day dental clinic that allows many people who would otherwise not have access to dental care receive the treatment they need,” said 2019 Oklahoma Mission of Mercy Chair Chris Fagan, DDS. “OkMOM is in its tenth year, and many of the volunteers have given their time to each one. That speaks volumes that a doctor or volunteer would give of their time every year for 10 years.”

This clinic is designed to meet the critical needs of people of all ages by providing donated dental care to as many adults and children as time, volunteers and supplies will allow. The event is a fully-functional dental facility, offering a variety of services such as cleanings, fillings, extractions and limited dental flippers (temporary replacement of front teeth). Treatment is given on a first-come, first-served basis and there is no eligibility or income requirement to seek treatment.

“This event is vital to Oklahoma because there are many people who simply do not have access to the care they need. For many people, this one event is the only opportunity they will have to visit a dentist,” said Fagan. “All patients are encouraged to find a dental home for ongoing treatment. Patients can find a dentist located near them at [findadentist.ada.org](http://findadentist.ada.org).”

“I’m very thankful for all the OkMOM volunteers and healthcare professionals. They were so helpful and friendly. Being at this event was truly a blessing,” said Debbie, a patient from Chouteau who attended the 2018 Oklahoma Mission of Mercy.

Since 2010, Oklahoma Mission of Mercy has treated 14,454 patients, totaling more than \$11 million in donated dental services. The event is presented by the Oklahoma Dental Association, the Oklahoma Dental Foundation and the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Foundation. To sign up to volunteer or for more information about OkMOM, visit [www.okmom.org](http://www.okmom.org).



**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](http://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](http://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](http://www.ddokfoundation.org).

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**Editor's Note:** For more information, photos or to schedule an interview with an Oklahoma Dental Association, an Oklahoma Dental Foundation, or a Delta Dental of Oklahoma Foundation representative, please contact Katy Gustafson, (405) 715-3232. Video footage of last year's event can be found on YouTube ([OkDentalMission Channel](#)). Broll and photos are available for download [here](#).