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**Okmulgee Dentist Gives Car to a Single Mother**

**Okmulgee, Oct 27, 2016** – Dr. Miranda Ruleford, along with her Okmulgee Family Dentistry office staff and friends, purchased a car for a single mother of three who fled a dangerous situation with her ex-husband. Stephanie and her children had left their home with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

When Ruleford learned of Stephanie's situation, she initially assisted the family with household items such as kitchen supplies and a television, stand and digital antennae. However, when Ruleford discovered that Stephanie did not have a car, she began shopping for a suitable vehicle by posting on Facebook asking if anyone had a car for sale. Then one of her friends, Lauren Houston, offered to donate money toward the purchase of the car, so Ruleford decided to post again on Facebook asking if anyone else would do the same. Lance Russell, owner of International Dental Arts in Tulsa, and Wes Holmes, her personal friend, made sizable donations in response to Ruleford's request. The money she received allowed her to buy a car with title, have a few necessary repairs made, and pay for a few months' worth of car insurance.

On the day Stephanie and her three children visited the Okmulgee Family Dentistry for the first time, Ruleford and her staff surprised Stephanie with her new car. Stephanie was completely shocked and so thankful that she cried. She told Ruleford that she often had to walk home five miles from work at night. "That impressed me that she was so dedicated when so many people just don't even seem to try to help themselves," said Ruleford. "Those are the people I enjoy helping the most, the ones that need a helping hand, not just a handout."

Stephanie and her children are not the first family Ruleford and her staff has helped. She has a few patients who foster children so she buys them clothes at the beginning of each new season. This year, she gave them each an Easter basket. She also helps her senior patients. The last few years her office staff has sponsored a local nursing home, Rebold Manor, and provided gifts of blankets, lotion and word searches.

Ruleford, a member of the American Dental Association and the Oklahoma Dental Association, is a 2006 graduate of the OU College of Dentistry and worked for Creek Nation in Coweta for more than three years before joining a pediatric office in Tulsa. In 2014, she entered private practice in Okmulgee where she enjoys the small town atmosphere and the kindness of her patients.

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**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, visit [www.okda.org](http://www.okda.org).

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**Editor's Note:** For photos or more information about Dr. Miranda Ruleford, please contact Tina Evans, 800.876.8890 or [tevens@okda.org](mailto:tevens@okda.org).

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