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Volunteers Needed in Durant for the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy

Free Dental Clinic is Seeking Volunteers of all Professions

DURANT, OK (October 16, 2017) – The Oklahoma Dental Association (ODA) is seeking volunteers of all backgrounds, training and experience for the ninth annual Oklahoma Mission of Mercy (OkMOM) on February 2-3, 2018, at the Choctaw Event Center. It will take more than 1,500 volunteers to execute this two-day clinic that offers free dental care. Volunteers needed include dentists, hygienists, assistants, front office staff, dental technicians, physicians and hundreds of non-healthcare volunteers to help with everything from patient and volunteer hospitality to language translation.

“During the two-day event, Durant will be the dental capitol of the world. No place on earth will there be more dentistry taking place than on February 2-3,” 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 will come together to help those with the greatest need.”

This two-day 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.

“OkMOM is not a long-term solution for the systemic problem of access to dental care in Oklahoma. It is intended to get people out of immediate pain and to provide education on proper oral health practices,” said Hookom. “All patients are encouraged to find a dental home for ongoing treatment. Patients can find a dentist located near them at <https://findadentist.ada.org/>.”

“Thank you so much for all your kindness. Thank you for treating me with respect. You are so appreciated,” said Renate, a patient from Lawton who attended the 2017 Oklahoma Mission of Mercy.

Since 2010, Oklahoma Mission of Mercy has treated 13,497 patients, totaling more than \$10 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.



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.

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Editor's Note: For more information, pictures or to schedule an interview with an Oklahoma Dental Association, an Oklahoma Dental Foundation, or a Delta Dental of Oklahoma Foundation representative, please contact Tina Evans, (405) 848-8873. Video footage of last year's event can be found on YouTube ([OkDentalMission Channel](#)). Broll and photos are available for download [here](#).