



**News Release**

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## **Oklahoma Mission of Mercy provides more than \$1.3 Million in Donated Dental Care in Woodward**

OKLAHOMA CITY (February 10, 2017) — Today the [Oklahoma Mission of Mercy](#) announced the results from last week's eighth annual event in Woodward. The two-day free dental clinic for people of all ages, the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy (OkMOM) provided \$1,306,907 in donated dental care. The event offered cleanings, fillings, extractions and anterior root canals at no cost to patients. Volunteers performed 10,165 dental procedures for 1,322 patients, averaging \$980 of dental care per patient.

"The quality of care we were able to provide at this year's Oklahoma Mission of Mercy event is incredible," said 2017 Oklahoma Mission of Mercy Chair Dr. Trent Yadon. "It is always overwhelming to see the crowds of people lined up to receive free dental care, but year after year the dental community steps up to care for our Oklahoma neighbors in need."

It took more than 1,400 volunteers from around the country to make this year's Oklahoma Mission of Mercy successful. This event is the single largest free clinic in the state where dental professionals come together, for two days, and offer their services for free.

"The Oklahoma Mission of Mercy is vital to Oklahoma because, while we have enough dentists in Oklahoma, there are some areas of the state which are underserved because of the distribution of that manpower. More importantly, the recent economic downturn and the funding reductions in the public 'safety net' programs, like Medicaid, have left some Oklahomans without access to the dental care they desperately need," said the Oklahoma Dental Association President Dr. Edmund Braly. "Although it is far from the answer to these and other dental care challenges we face in Oklahoma, an event like OkMOM does provide dental professionals an annual opportunity to address the most immediate dental needs for hundreds of patients who otherwise would not get that care. I am so proud to be a part of a profession that provides such a huge gift to our fellow Oklahomans."

The event was sponsored in part by Delta Dental Oral Health Foundation, DentaQuest, Medical Waste Services, Patterson Dental, Dentsply Sirona Endodontics and Gooden Group. Big Dan's Steakhouse in Woodward supplied the majority of the food for patients and volunteers.

"Only about half of Oklahomans have dental insurance, leaving many relying on events like the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy to receive quality dental care and oral health education," said Delta Dental of Oklahoma President and CEO John Gladden. "For many patients who attend, the

event is life-changing, and Delta Dental of Oklahoma is honored and privileged to be a part of the event.”

Oklahoma Mission of Mercy is produced by the Oklahoma Dental Association, the Oklahoma Dental Foundation and Delta Dental of Oklahoma’s Oral Health Foundation. Donations for the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy dental clinic are accepted at [www.okmom.org](http://www.okmom.org).

[View/download a recap video, dialogue and Broll here](#)

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