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Volunteers Needed in Woodward for Free Dental Clinic

WOODWARD, OK – The Oklahoma Dental Association (ODA) is seeking volunteers of all backgrounds, training and experience for the eighth annual Oklahoma Mission of Mercy (OkMOM) on February 3-4, 2017, at the Woodward County Fairgrounds. It will take more than 1,500 volunteers to execute this free, two-day dental clinic. 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.

“All OkMOM volunteers have two things in common, a passion for people and an eagerness to help the underserved in Oklahoma,” said Dr. Trent Yadon, 2017 OkMOM Chair. “While we do need dental professionals to assist with procedures and managing clinic operations, many of our volunteer positions do not require a dental-related skill.”

This two-day clinic is designed to meet the critical needs of dental patients of all ages by providing donated dental care to as many adults and children as time, volunteers and supplies will allow. Treatment is given on a first-come, first-served basis and there is no eligibility or income requirement to seek treatment. Courtesy indoor line formation opens at 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 2 and again at 8 p.m. on Friday, February 3. Treatment begins at 5 a.m. on February 3 and 4.

The event is a fully-functional dental facility, offering a variety of services such as cleanings, fillings, extractions and very limited dental flippers (temporary replacement of front teeth). Since 2010, the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy has treated 12,175 patients, equaling \$8,742,959 in donated dental services.

“All of the volunteers were exceptional in every respect – friendly, helpful, attentive and respectful. Thank you,” said Saylor, a patient from Tulsa.

The event is presented by the Oklahoma Dental Association, the Oklahoma Dental Foundation and the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Oral Health Foundation. To sign up to volunteer or for more information about OkMOM, visit www.okmom.org.

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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.

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 Oral Health 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 Oral Health Foundation representative, please contact Tina Evans, 405.848.8873. Video footage of last year's event can be found on YouTube ([OkDentalMission Channel](#)).