



News Release

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Dentists Donated Dental Care to Patients at Oklahoma Mission of Mercy in Durant

Services to underserved patients totaled \$1,157,501

Oklahoma City, Okla. (February 14, 2018) — Today the [Oklahoma Mission of Mercy](#) announced the results from the ninth annual event in Durant, where Oklahoma Dental Association members were among dental professionals who donated services. The two-day free dental clinic for people of all ages, the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy (OkMOM) provided \$1,157,501 in donated dental care. The event offered cleanings, fillings extractions, root canals on front teeth, and limited ways to improve the smile line at no cost to patients. Volunteers performed 8,166 dental procedures for 957 patients, averaging \$1,209.51 of dental care per patient.

“We were able to provide the highest quality of care to our patients at this year’s Oklahoma Mission of Mercy event,” said 2018 Oklahoma Mission of Mercy Chair Dr. Mathew Hookom. “As a southeast Oklahoma native, it’s is always overwhelming to see the crowds of people lined up to receive free dental care. I’m grateful for the compassionate Oklahoma dental professionals and non-dental community members who came together to care for our neighbors in need.”

It took nearly 1,500 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 meets an immediate need for many patients who have tremendous barriers to accessing care,” said the Oklahoma Dental Association President Dr. Juan Lopez. “Our ultimate goal is to get people out of pain and connect them with a dentist for ongoing preventative care. Dental care is vital care. As much a part of a person’s healthy expectancy as having cholesterol checks, blood pressure checks, and other health monitoring checks.”

Each year the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy offers the clinic in a different city. The 2019 event will be held in Oklahoma City the first weekend in February.

Major funding was provided by the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Foundation. Additional sponsors included Alorica, Metro Linen, Indian Nation Wholesale, Kiwanis of Durant, First United Methodist Church, Wastequip, Rotary Club of Durant, Rolling Thrones Rentals and Medical Waste Services.

“Only about half of Oklahomans have dental insurance, and SoonerCare only provides comprehensive care for children in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Mission of Mercy may be the only way for some to receive 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 to be a part of it year after year.”

Oklahoma Mission of Mercy is produced by the Oklahoma Dental Association, the Oklahoma Dental Foundation and the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Foundation. Donations for the Oklahoma Mission of Mercy dental clinic are accepted at www.okmom.org.

[View/download photos and video from the 2018 OkMOM here](#)

