

the smile Report

Spring 2010

A newsletter from Tri-County Community Dental Clinic

Help During Difficult Times

By Mercy Health Foundation

When Steve Kowalkowski of Winneconne was diagnosed with cancer in his neck in late 2005, he had no dental insurance. It wasn't Steve's biggest concern at the time, but his radiation oncologist at the Michael D. Wachtel Cancer Center at Mercy advised him to take care of any needed dental care before beginning an aggressive regimen of chemotherapy and radiation. Steve found help at the Tri-County Community Dental Clinic (TCCDC), which is mainly staffed by volunteer dentists. According to Steve, "Everyone at the clinic is always friendly; even the students are polite and knowledgeable. It has been a great help to me."

"Everyone at the clinic is always friendly; even the students are polite and knowledgeable. It has been a great help to me." —Steve Kowalkowski

Most people do not realize that radiation therapy in the head or neck can be very hard on teeth, sometimes damaging the blood vessels to them. In Steve's case, the radiation also destroyed his salivary glands, further complicating his dental situation. After treatment, he again turned to the TCCDC when he needed to have several more teeth removed and other restorative work performed.



Judy and Steve Kowalkowski

Mercy Health Foundation

Mercy Health Foundation is a member of Affinity Health System based at Mercy Medical Center, Oshkosh. Its mission is to live out the healing ministry of Christ with special emphasis on those in need by generating, stewarding and distributing charitable funds to support excellence and accessibility in health care for all local residents of Affinity's Southern Region service area, which includes Oshkosh and the surrounding rural area.

Donors to Mercy Health Foundation provide support for the purchase of medical equipment and other capital needs as well as traditional and unique programs that allow Mercy and Affinity Medical Group to fully serve patients and families. Foundation grants support projects at Mercy such as the renovation of the Michael D. Wachtel Cancer Center, purchase of a new heart catheterization lab and operating expenses towards the Fitness for the Physically Challenged program, which serves community members with disabilities.

Donors also partner, through the Foundation, with other community organizations to sustain community safety net programs that provide essential health services, such as dental care and primary health care, to low income and uninsured residents of Southern Winnebago County. Each year, Mercy Health Foundation contributes to the operating budgets of the Living Healthy Community Clinic, Oshkosh, and the Tri-County Community Dental Clinic, Appleton, as well as for charity care at Mercy Medical Center.



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Message from the President

By Sally Mielke, RN



The dream of a few, the commitment of many. Ten years ago, a few concerned dentists began plans to solve a growing problem—lack of dental care for many lower income people. To band together as a group of dental professionals to create a free clinic to serve this group, snow balled into what today is known as the Tri-County Community Dental Clinic. It was built on donated land; equipped with donated equipment from Marquette University and local groups; funded by many individuals, companies, and foundations in the area; and operated by a small employed staff and over 400 volunteers—dentists, hygienists, assistants and office personnel.

The TCCDC opened its doors October 22, 2003, and has been in high gear ever since. It collaborated with Marquette University as a clinical site for dental students and with FVTC for hygiene and dental assistant students. 2009 saw significant changes at TCCDC. A retention pond was created. Operatories were updated. The operatories now allow the professionals to move from one to the other without having to adjust to different equipment and layout. This consistency allows for improved care. This was all done by donations—both monetary and in-kind.

Our new program, *Focus on the Children*, started in Oshkosh elementary schools. This first screening took place this winter. The program will be implemented this spring in the Appleton elementary schools. (See page 4 to learn more about the program.)

This mission can only be carried out with dedicated staff, volunteers and community support. Our grateful thanks to all of you for making it possible.

TCCDC Statistics

October 2003-December 2009

- 22,301 patients were treated in 37,008 visits
- 31% of the visits were for children
- \$8.6 million worth of donated dental care was provided

Volunteer Statistics

- 140 dentists provided 13,313 volunteer clinical hours
- 96 hygienists provided 2,944 volunteer clinical hours
- Marquette University School of Dentistry students provided 18,868 hours of care
- Fox Valley Technical College Hygienist and Assisting students provided 7,515 hours of care

Renovation Complete!

We are very excited to announce that TCCDC's renovation is complete! In just four days (December 18 to December 23), walls were painted, a new floor was placed and the following new equipment was installed:

- 8 New Marus dental chairs
- New lights and dental units
- All new dental cabinetry

Most of our initial (2003) equipment was "used" and donated by Marquette University School of Dentistry. It was over 30 years old when it was donated. Although the equipment was antiquated and uncomfortable for patients, staff and volunteers, it worked for over 30,000 patient visits. Thanks to the following contributors, a great portion of the cost of this renovation has been met.

Mielke Family Foundation
Delta Dental of Wisconsin
Bergstrom Corporation
Keller Structures

Menasha Corporation
Schmerein Family Fund
Henry Schein
Mercy Health Foundation

Staff, volunteers and students are very pleased with the renovation. In addition to increasing efficiency and comfort for us and our patients, it has created a "new energy" that will help us continue to treat patients in an atmosphere of kindness, compassion and respect.

When the clinic was closed for the renovation, volunteer Dr. Bill Hammond treated patients at Fox Cities Community Health Clinic. Five other dentists volunteered to see any emergency patients when Dr. Hammond needed an extra pair of hands. These dentists were: Dr. Jaci Belter, Dr. Tim Brown, Dr. John Masak, Dr. Perry Menos and Dr. Jim Springborn.

2009-2010 Head Start

Each year, TCCDC partners with the Head Start program in our service area to provide dental care to children. The TCCDC staff and volunteers create a happy and fun environment to put the child at ease. As the child is greeted, the hygienist gives them a cool pair of shades to put on while they are having their teeth cleaned.

For the 2009/2010 school year, 236 children were seen by 11 volunteer hygienists and 15 volunteer FVTC hygiene students on three different days, providing over \$33,500 worth of dental care.



Spring Break!

TCCDC is a proud partner with Marquette University School of Dentistry and Fox Valley Technical College Hygiene and Assistant Departments.

Each week, four different students from MUSoD work at the clinic. They perform procedures such as fillings, root canals and extractions. The students enjoy their time at the clinic so much that some even request to come back and volunteer on their spring break.

Every year, TCCDC is pleased to see a group of pre-dent students who are interested in going to dental school. Many of these students return to the clinic during their breaks to volunteer.



MUSoD students: Ryan Yakowicz and Whitney Wege volunteering on Spring Break with Dr. Bill Hammond

All of these students pictured were volunteering on their spring break



MUSoD student Whitney Wage



Jon Gesicki, '06-'09 pre-dent, currently attending Detroit Dental School



MUSoD student Cole Stockheimer



MUSoD student Timothy Baggot



FVTC Hygiene students Jessie Bangart and Heather Schoebel

2010 Volunteer Hygienists

In 2009, the volunteer hygienists provided treatment to 2,395 patients. Thank you to the following hygienists for their generous donation of time this past year.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Lisa Ahles, RDH | Lauri Harris, RDH | Cynthia Porter, RDH |
| Susan Barlow, RDH | Peggy Hurlbut, RDH | Elisa Puls, RDH |
| Sara Beatty, RDH | Sheree Joosten, RDH | Elizabeth |
| Anita Behm, RDH | Krista Kerkoff, RDH | Romenesko, RDH |
| April Behnke, RDH | Suzanne Kilgas, RDH | Eileen Sabel, RDH |
| Lisa Bell, RDH | Michele Kluess, RDH | Carmen Salinas, RDH |
| Betsy Bersch, RDH | Kathy Knott, RDH | Kelly Schroeder, RDH |
| Nancy Brown, RDH | Megan Kranner, RDH | Cassie Sherman, RDH |
| Sharri Crowe, RDH | Kirsten Langkau, RDH | Emily Thiry, RDH |
| Kirstin D'Acquisto, RDH | Judy Lao, RDH | Nikki Torgerson, RDH |
| Becky Duel, RDH | Margie Mahoney, RDH | Brandy Vandenberg, RDH |
| Lisa Forst, RDH | Debra Mickelson, RDH | Katie Wampole, RDH |
| Mary Freis, RDH | Kathy Miller, RDH | Jesse Warner, RDH |
| Susan Fuller, RDH | Mandy Mueller, RDH | Teresa Werner, RDH |
| Tina Gillis, RDH | Sara Netzer, RDH | Michelle Wojahn, RDH |
| Kim Glasscock, RDH | Joan O'Toole, RDH | Sara Zimmerman, RDH |
| Sara Hajos, RDH | Nadine Peterson, RDH | |
| | Joanne Polzin, RDH | |

If we missed you, please notify Rachel at 882-8508.

Focus on the Children Update

In the Winter newsletter, the new program "Focus on the Children" was introduced. The purpose of this program is to allow TCCDC to bring dental care and preventative education to the children in a school setting.

Phase I of the program is a team of four or five individuals visiting a school. Our team is made up of hygienists, assistants and administrative volunteers. Phase I includes a screening exam, fluoride treatment and oral hygiene instructions.

Phase II of this program involves bringing those children screened at the school to TCCDC in Appleton. An exam and cleaning are performed, and sealants are applied where needed. Any restorations required are scheduled with volunteer dentists.

Since September, 393 children have been screened in Phase I and thirty-six of these children have been seen at TCCDC for Phase II.

A special group of volunteer dentists have agreed to see the children for restorative treatment at the clinic. These volunteers are: Dr. Dawn Brown, Dr. Karen Dustrude, Dr. Amy Henderson, Dr. Stephanie Kramer, Dr. Jane Mathen and Dr. Pat McConnell.



Three of the dentists participating in this program: Dr. Amy Henderson, Dr. Stephanie Kramer, Dr. Dawn Brown

Congratulations to Dr. Brown and Dr. Florek!

Drs. Tim Brown and Phil Florek recently received the Wisconsin 2009 Social Innovation prize. They were honored November 3, 2009, in Milwaukee for their successful advocacy in caring for the uninsured and low income populations in Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago counties.

The Social Innovation Prize in Wisconsin is awarded annually to an exceptional individual, or in this case, two individuals, who is over 60 years of age and is defying expectations by channeling their creativity and talents to address critical social problems at the local, regional or national level.



Through the efforts of Dr. Brown, Dr. Florek AND MANY OTHERS, the Tri-County Community Dental Clinic was created with the mission of providing quality oral health care through a volunteer program that links local volunteer dentists and hygienists with Marquette University dental students and Fox Valley Technical College dental hygiene and assisting students. As prize winners, the Tri-County Community Dental Clinic received \$10,000 in Drs. Brown and Florek's names for their outstanding contributions.

In accepting their award, both doctors Tim and Phil mentioned that they were very appreciative of the award, but pointed out to the audience that there were MANY individuals responsible for the establishment of TCCDC. They were personally "shy" about receiving the award, but they were very pleased not only in that TCCDC would receive \$10,000, but because it recognized the work and collaboration of so many individuals, groups, MU, FVTC and WDA leaders. They also felt that the announcement of the award helped recognize the many financial donors that have helped TCCDC since its inception.

Margie Weiss, longtime TCCDC Board member and Chairperson of our Public Relations/Development Committee, was the one who found and wrote the application for this award. Thank you, Margie!

Dr. Allison Dowd - CE Event

Dr. Allison Dowd spoke to a crowd of 100 dentists, hygienists and Fox Valley Technical Hygiene students on the topic "Meeting the Oral Health Needs of our Youngest and Most Vulnerable Patients" at Fox Valley Technical College on Thursday, February 18.

Dr. Dawn Brown began the evening by welcoming everyone and introducing Dr. Dowd. The course featured a variety of oral health issues relating to working with children, including autism, cancer and physical disabilities.

The event was sponsored by TCCDC and funded by Children's Health Alliance of Wisconsin with the Maternal and Child Health Bureau grant.

A special thank you to Diane Flanagan, RDH, CYSHCN, Oral Health Project Manager, and Joan Rohrer, RDH, BS, FVTC Department Chair of Dental Programs, for coordinating the event with TCCDC staff and to the Winnebago County Dental Society for providing the continuing education credits.

As a small way of saying thank you to our many dental volunteers, TCCDC sponsors, at no charge, two or three continuing education seminars per year.



Allison Dowd, DDS

2010 Volunteer Dentists

David Angell, Oshkosh
Robert Asp, Hilbert
Ryan Auth, Appleton
Gary Banks, Neenah
Robert Bastic, Appleton
Edward Bekx, Kimberly
Jacqueline Belter, Oshkosh
Christopher Bergstrom, Appleton
Gayatri Bhosale, Appleton
Robert Brennan, Neenah
Dawn Brown, Neenah
Timothy Brown, Neenah
Tipton Brown, Neenah
Tyler Brown, Neenah
Jeffrey Casperson, Appleton
Robert Chablowski, Menasha
William Clark, Appleton
Paul Conner, Appleton
Jason Cooke, Appleton
Karen Dustrude, Oshkosh
Michael Ebben, Little Chute
David Emanuel, Appleton
William Farrow, Kaukauna
David Fischer, Kaukauna
William Flanagan, Appleton
Phillip Florek, Neenah
Jay Frazier, Green Bay
Michael Gabler, Appleton
David Gamm, Appleton
William Hammond, Oshkosh
Sangkyu Han, Appleton
Michael Hanneman, Oshkosh
Peter Hehli, Appleton
Amy Henderson, Neenah
Jason Henderson, Neenah
Richard Hillsabeck, Appleton
Donald Hoff, Seymour
Daniel Johaneck, Appleton
Gay Johnson, Greenville
Larry Johnson, Oshkosh
George Jumes, Appleton
Jeffrey Keesler, Neenah
Marissa Keesler, Neenah
James Killinger, Oshkosh
Terry Kippa, Oshkosh
Gordon Korthals, Oshkosh
Tony Kraft, Seymour
Stephanie Kramer, Neenah
Douglas Krueger, Appleton
Lisa Lang-Riegel, Menasha
Thomas LaSelle, Appleton
Mark Lenz, Little Chute
John Luther, Appleton

Robert Magnin, Kimberly
John Masak, Appleton
Michael Maslowski, Oshkosh
Jane Mathen, Appleton
Patricia McConnell, Appleton
Christopher McFarlane, Oshkosh/Neenah
Michael McFarlane, Oshkosh/Neenah
Daniel McKinnon, Appleton
Mark McNeil, Neenah
Perry Menos, Appleton
David Mentz, Neenah
Thomas Moeller, Kaukauna
Donald Mortensen, Neenah
Terry Murphy, Greenville
Todd Needham, Appleton
David Olsen, Appleton
Henry Plautz, Appleton
Ed Polzin, Appleton
J. Scott Polzin, Appleton
Ronald Possell, Appleton
Dann Pynenberg, Appleton
Stacey Reuss, Appleton
Richard Romenesko, Appleton
John Rydlewicz, Appleton
Dale Scharine, Appleton
Lee Schild, Greenville
Paul Schmidt, Fond du Lac
Gilbert Schmidtke, Appleton
Gilpatrick Schmidtke, Appleton
Richard Schoengarth, Appleton
Sidney Schulz, Sherwood
Susan Schuster, Oshkosh
Paul Shoberg, Appleton
Nikki Smith, Appleton
James Springborn, Appleton
James Steinmetz, Appleton
Steven Stoll, Neenah
Sheila Stover, Milwaukee
Loren Swanson, Oshkosh
Paul Tetting, Appleton
James Tomassetti, Appleton
Bret Trent, Oshkosh
Richard Tulip, Oshkosh
Karen Wedde, Oshkosh
Patrick White, Appleton
Michael Wockenfus, Menasha
Douglas Wolk, Oshkosh
Jeffrey Wolk, Oshkosh
Timothy Zuck, Appleton

If we missed you,
please notify Rachel at 882-8508.

Thank You!

This past quarter, TCCDC has received a number of generous contributions. Thank you to all individuals who support our clinic with monetary gifts. Gifts that were made in honor or memory of an individual are listed below.

- In honor of the doctors of Valley Endodontics
- In honor of Dr. Tim Brown and Dr. Phil Florek
- In honor of Dr. William Hammond
- In honor of TCCDC's staff
- In honor of Dr. Jim Springborn
- In memory of Mildred Johnson
- In memory of Sue Schouten

Thank you to following companies and individuals who have donated Gifts In-Kind.

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| • Dr. Banks | • Mike Milhaupt |
| • Henry Schein | • Keller Structures |
| • Willems Marketing | • Schenck Business Solutions |
| • Lynn Van Vreede | • United Paper / Todd Murphy |



Senator Mike Ellis visited the clinic on Give Kids a Smile Day 2010






Representative Dean Kaufert visiting the clinic



TCCDC staff hygienist J.J. Schauske with FVTC Hygiene students Megan Mann and Tammy Boelter during their clinical rotation

National Children's Dental Health Month

Each February, the American Dental Association (ADA) sponsors National Children's Dental Health Month to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. TCCDC participated in various events (including Give Kids a Smile 2010-see last page of newsletter) promoting oral health education to our community.

-  Columbus Grade school in Appleton invited J.J. Schauske, RDH, to speak to 40 children, educating them on good oral health care.
-  Delta Dental "Miles of Smiles" day at the Building for Kids. Each year, Delta Dental sponsors a day of free admissions at Building for Kids. TCCDC had a booth with fun take-home items. Over 1,680 individuals visited this day.
-  Habitat for Humanity held a Health and Home Safety Workshop at the Appleton YMCA. TCCDC was asked to present how to take care of your teeth to 25 children.



2009 & 2010 Board of Directors



Standing (l-r) Robert Glass, Doug Westemeier, Tom LaSelle, DDS, Donald Hoff, DDS, Loren Swanson, DDS, Phil Florek, DDS, Dan Nisler, Tom Bender, James Springborn, DDS, John Masak, DDS, Lisa Lang-Riegel, DDS, Tim Brown, DDS, Melissa Katzenmaier, RDH. (Front Row) Perry Menos, DDS, Sally Mielke, Robert Brennan, DDS, Margie Weiss (not pictured: Vicki Fischer, Steve Morton)

Smiles for the Future Partners

(Individuals, foundations, corporations and organizations that provide significant ongoing financial support toward the TCCDC mission.)

- Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region
- Delta Dental of Wisconsin
- Jewelers Mutual
- J.J. Keller Foundation
- Marjorie Geisler
- Menasha Corporation Foundation
- Mercy Health Foundation
- Mielke Family Foundation
- Schmerein Family Fund
- Shattuck Community Fund
- Tad and Jane Shepard Family Foundation
- St. Elizabeth Hospital Community Foundation
- Wisconsin Dental Association Foundation

Our Mission

Tri-County Community Dental Clinic is an all-volunteer dental clinic whose mission is to provide quality oral health care services in a caring and compassionate manner to those individuals in Calumet, Outagamie and Winnebago counties whose access to dental health care is limited due to inadequate income or reduced access to Medicaid care eligibility.

Was your name or address missed or misspelled? Please accept our apologies and contact Rachel Youngquist at 920-882-8508 or rydental@tds.net and we will correct our records.

920-882-5500 www.tricountydental.org

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Give Kids A Smile

The eighth annual Give Kids A Smile day was held February 5, 2010. Tri-County Community Dental Clinic is proud to be among the more than 12,780 dentists nationwide who joined with dental staff and community volunteers in donating expertise, time and supplies to improve the oral health of 322,885 of our nation's low-income children.

Thank you to Dr. Bill Flanagan, Dr. Tony Kraft and the Fox Valley Technical College Hygiene Class for treating 51 children at the clinic.

Thank you to the following private offices for treating our patients at their office: Bekx and Magnin, Bouressa Dental Associates, Brown Family Dentistry, Dr. Paul Conner, Forest View Dental, Dr. Michelle Graf, HD Family and Cosmetic Dentistry, Hilbert Family Practices, Kaukauna Family Dentistry, Kramer Family Dentistry, Lenz Dental Office, Mathen and Springborn Family Dental, Dr. Thomas Moeller, Northstar Dental Group, Dr. Joseph Schouten, Sherwood Dental, S.C., Dr. Steven Stoll, and Valley Endodontics, Ltd.

Together our volunteers performed over \$54,000 of services. There was a 47% increase from last year in the number of children treated.

Senator Michael Ellis, Congressman Steve Kagen, Representative Dean Kaufert and Representative Alvin Ott stopped by to visit.

