



## Mission of Mercy BISMARCK 2018

### **North Dakota Mission of Mercy Summary Report September 28-29, 2018 • Bismarck Event Center, Bismarck, ND**

North Dakota's first Mission of Mercy (NDMOM) was held on September 28-29, 2018 at the Bismarck Event Center, Bismarck, ND, with a goal of providing donated dental care to 600 patients in need. 50 dental chairs were set up in the Bismarck Event Center. The North Dakota Dental Association and the North Dakota Dental Foundation organized the event, recruited the workforce, and raised funds to make the event a success. Over 120 individuals, organizations, and businesses provided cash and in-kind contributions to support the event. Special thanks to our Gold Level Sponsors, **the North Dakota Dental Foundation** and **Delta Dental of Minnesota Serving North Dakota**, as well as our Bronze Level Sponsors, **Blue Cross Blue Shield of ND Caring Foundation, Dakota Medical Foundation, CHI St. Alexius Health, and Patterson Community Foundation**. We also cannot thank our dental supply companies, Patterson Dental and Henry Schein Dental (along with their many partners), enough for their support!

916 patients received care, with 35 of them able to return for a second visit for additional treatment. 14% of the patients were 17 years old and under, 23% were 18-29 years old, and 62% were 30 or older. 38% of the patients had visited a dentist in the last 2 years, however nearly 4% had never been to a dentist.

110 dentists, 48 hygienists, 105 dental assistants, and 4 lab techs provided urgently needed dental care. Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene students from Minnesota State - Moorhead and North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) in Wahpeton rotated through the various departments of the clinic. A total of 570 volunteers registered for the event. The majority of volunteers were lay people who escorted patients, served meals and snacks to volunteers, registered patients, helped set-up and tear-down the clinic, and provided language translation, among other duties.

Treatment provided included 961 extractions, 358 composite fillings, 72 amalgam fillings, 48 root canals, 203 cleanings, 56 sealants, and almost 60 appliances to replace missing front teeth. The estimated dollar value of the donated treatment provided was \$564,964.

The patients came from 33 different counties in North Dakota. Only 6 patients were from our neighboring states. 67% of patients traveled less than 30 minutes to receive care at the event.

About 43% of the patients stated they had dental pain and 20% reported they had sought dental care in the past at an emergency room/emergency clinic. Interestingly, 73% of the patients reported they had no insurance to pay for their dental care, but 32% said they had a place to go for dental care after the event. Of note, only 7% of the patients indicated they were eligible for government assistance/Medicaid. 14% said they were covered by dental insurance and 0.5% listed Indian Health Service as an option for dental coverage. Cost was mentioned most frequently as a reason the patient had not received needed dental care, with fear/anxiety of seeing a dentist a distant second. 71% of the patients were Caucasian/White, 9% were Native American/Alaska Native, 6% were Hispanic/Latino, 5% were Black/African American, and 1% were Asian.

While the Mission of Mercy is not a long-term solution to reduce barriers to care in North Dakota, it made a difference in the lives of 916 patients. The event also provided needed oral health education and raised awareness of the importance of oral health in the community and for policymakers. It was a true statewide community event that energized the dental community to continue to look for collaborative solutions to reduce barriers to care. Thank you to the amazing volunteers and contributor partners that made this event a success!