



We're going to try sending out VOICES every other month.

Not that there isn't a lot happening, there is, but because there is we have been too busy to present a quality document monthly.

We'll see how it goes.



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VOICES

America's Dentists Care Foundation Missions of Mercy

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I've wanted to acknowledge the original Mission of Mercy since we met Linda Ryan a year ago, and so we are pleased to introduce you to her and the organization she represents:

Often times we as MOM'ers get wrapped up in our own Missions of Mercy as we load and unload equipment only to pack it all back up again and move on to the next venue. So it is good occasionally to look around us and see what other great work is being done by other organizations similar to ours.

Linda Ryan is considered a good friend though we have never met. She is the E.D. of an organization, based in Frederick, MD, who "originally" utilized the name Mission of Mercy for their non-profit. Needless to say there can be some confusion between their organization and ours, and indeed there has been. But, they have been very gracious in putting up with us, the "new kids on the block". Calls are shuttled to us when a caller has reached the wrong "MOM" or when there is some confusion over donations. CBS first contacted Linda and she rerouted them to us when she realized that they were looking for our "Mission of Mercy".

Mission of Mercy was founded in 1994, by pharmacist, Dr. Gianna Talone Sullivan, as a non-profit, nonsectarian organization that seeks "to restore dignity to the sick, poor, and homeless and healing through Love." Their mission of providing free medical care, free dental care and free prescription medications is accomplished through a mobile program utilizing volunteer licensed medical and dental professionals, both active and retired, and is supported by a cadre of volunteer non-medical individuals. No one is denied care.

In addition, Mission of Mercy utilizes mostly churches as partners for their clinic sites and they work collaboratively with a network of medial specialists, laboratories, and hospitals that provide specialty care (lab work, x-rays, MRI's and some surgeries), and services at no cost to their patients. No government funds are used to support their program. Mission of Mercy operates in four states – Arizona, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Texas. Their Texas clinic recently teamed up at an event with Richard Smith's TMOM efforts.

Now in their 15th year of operation, Mission of Mercy has, organizationally, provided free medical care for over 64,000 patients during over 230,000 patient visits and they have provided for over 7,000 dental patients and performed over 46,000 dental procedures. They have also dispensed over 400,000 free prescription medications.

Please visit www.aMissionofMercy.org to learn more about the "original" Mission of Mercy or you may contact Linda Ryan, Executive Director of the MD/PA Division at 301.682.5683 or at lryan@amissionofmercy.org; Catherine Amiot, Executive Director of the AZ Division at 602.861.2233 or camiot@amissionofmercy.org or Patty Clark, Executive Director of the TX Division at 361.883.5500 or at pclark@amissionofmercy.org.

We wish Linda and her staff the best.



Other News

In a continuing effort to upgrade our equipment, five new Midmark M11 sterilizers were purchased just prior to the KMOM event.

On to New Haven, Connecticut April 17th and 18th.

Then to Springdale, Arkansas May 8th and 9th

Then LaCrosse, Wisconsin June 26th and 27th.

....and more beyond!

We have been contacted directly or indirectly by individuals from 22 states who express an interest in organizing a Mission of Mercy in their state.

A MOM Story

I spoke to an older, unshaved gentleman in Manhattan- worn and faded brown bomber jacket that had lost many of it sewn on patches- silver streaked hair very un-kept.

He was there for an extraction, having hitch-hiked from Wichita, KS, some 150 miles away...and now he was about to hitch-hike back.

MOM Squad

Some of the Mom squad members had a couple work days in Garden City, KS. in January.

Dr. Stasch provided the space and we all provided the muscle. We were joined by John Hanck, board member from Colorado, and the Ahlschwede father and son team from Nebraska. So it was truly an interstate event.

The goal was to ready the AMOM trailer for 2009. Mission accomplished!

New Board Members

We are extremely fortunate to have added the following individuals to our foundation board:

- Dr. Bruce Tandy, PE Connecticut Dental Association
- Dr. Ernie Spira, One of the driving forces behind Connecticut's exceptional CTMOM.
- Dr. Kathy Roth, Past President of the ADA

The foundation has put together an unbelievable team of talented people. Great things are ahead as we strive to enable more states to help the underserved.

KMOM 2009: A Whopping Success

The line at 4:30 AM Friday morning in Manhattan, KS at the National Guard armory totaled 747! It was 16 degrees! In all 1835 patients were treated in two days, a little over a million dollars in care was provided, and the experience was a typical KMOM experience....unforgettable! Sgt Ed Savage and his National Guard people were one of the best groups we've worked with. A big thank you to them!

OKMOM

Surprise! We have some new friends, and a new MOM state!

The fine people of Oklahoma were well represented in Manhattan as 8 members of their MOM team came to help and learn and boy they did—on both counts! They added a lot to the KMOM experience. The fire burns brightly in Oklahoma, and we'll be anxious to join them in Tulsa, February 3rd and 4th of 2010.

Give Kids a Smile Champion

We were thrilled to have had the opportunity to present information on AMOM to the Give Kids A Smile Foundation Board in Chicago in January. The ADCF is a Give Kids a Smile Champion, and we are continually grateful for that association.

Solmetex®

We will be adding two amalgam separators to our evacuation lines in the near future. Some states now require their use, but we will be using them in all states. These are being donated to us by Solmetex. We also thank Lani Becker and Kathy Roth for putting this effort together. The containers will be packaged up at the end of each Mom event and sent back to Solmetex for proper disposal.

