Foundation Welcomes Our New Chief Development Officer

This issue of Highlights is a special issue focusing on our upcoming Michigan Mission of Mercy event in Big Rapids May 30-31. The MDA Foundation is proud to support this charity event, and we hope you will support it, too.

With this issue I’m also pleased to introduce you Nancy Maier, our new MDA Foundation chief development officer. Nancy joined the MDA Foundation on Jan. 6. She’s an experienced fundraising professional – some of you may know her from her service as senior director of development for the UDM School of Dentistry. She’ll assist our Foundation in raising money to support our mission and to create a stable, solid revenue stream for the future. Contact Nancy at nmaier@michigandental.org.

One of our Foundation partners is the Detroit Goodfellows. Each year the MDA Foundation provides oral health kits in Goodfellows holiday packages given to underprivileged kids in the Detroit area. It’s the Goodfellows 100th anniversary this year, and I encourage you to participate in a special Old Newsboys’ Goodfellow Fund online auction from April 15 to May 15. To view items, bid, or email pages, go to BiddingforGood.com/DetroitGoodfellows. Thanks!

I’d also like to share news about some of our upcoming Foundation events. The first is our MDA Annual Session Raffle. This year we’re giving away your choice of a two-year lease on a Ford Mustang convertible, or a $12,000 vacation with $2,000 in spending money, or $14,000 cash. Raffle tickets are just $100 and only 425 will be issued. For details, visit our website or contact Lori Kleinfelt at 800-589-2632, ext. 406. Also coming up is our annual Smile On! Golf outing, taking place Friday, May 16 at Shepherd’s Hollow Golf Club in Clarkson. This event is a major fundraiser for us and it’s a lot of fun, too.

Lastly, many of you have already made a financial contribution to the MDA Foundation. Contributions are tax-deductible. If you haven’t yet made a donation, please consider doing so. There are many ways to give. Find out more at www.smilemichigan.com/foundation.

The 2014 Michigan Mission of Mercy is Coming!

The MDA Foundation, MDA, and others are teaming up once again this year for another important Mission of Mercy program – this time on the campus of Ferris State University in Big Rapids. The dates are Friday and Saturday, May 30-31, with set-up on Thursday, May 29 and tear-down Sunday, June 1. The first Mission of Mercy event was held in Virginia in 2000. Since then, more than 85 MOMs have been held throughout the United States. A MOM event like ours addresses the most-urgent needs of patients and relieves them of pain and suffering. And, the MOM brings awareness among the media and governmental leaders about the problem of access to care and the efforts that organized dentistry is making to address it.

About 1,000 patients each day will be treated on a first-come, first-served basis. Care will be provided to both adults and children. Patient education will be a top priority, along with needed care. Dental services will include gross debridement and prophylaxis, amalgams, composites, extractions, limited endodontics, and treatment partials.

Planning for this massive charity event is in full gear. Volunteers are the heart of a Mission of Mercy, and we hope that you will be one of them. Approximately 300 dentists and assistants, 75 hygienists, 16 dental laboratory technicians and 625 lay volunteers and students are needed.

Some may ask, “Why are we doing this?” After all, providing dental care to underserved individuals happens on a daily basis in private practices, clinics and local programs. Many times this care goes unnoticed because of a dentist’s personal philosophy, commitment or generosity. But sometimes providing dental care together in a group event like a MOM builds camaraderie among your dental team and with colleagues around the state you may not even know. Working with others who share your passion creates a level of excitement and enthusiasm that is purely contagious. For many, recognition of their compassion and generosity is long overdue.

Yes, there are many good reasons why so many dental professionals in Michigan are choosing to be a MOM volunteer. But don’t take our word for it. Here’s what these volunteers have to say about being a MOM volunteer:

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Proud all over again of our profession. The time serving are very warm and grateful. The dental professionals in both events I got much more than I gave. The patients in Madison, Wisconsin, in the summer of 2012. I think son, Tom, who is a dental student at Marquette University Saginaw last year with the MDA and one along with my “I have participated in two MOM events, the one in Everyone there was so nice and worked great together even went through the line again to get more things done. “Last year was the first MOM I was involved with. Last year at Saginaw Valley, our team made flippers, acrylic partials, relines and repairs. Our laboratory was right on the clinic floor. We did get to see what a difference we really made behind the scenes. It was wonderful to be able to see that flipper that was on a plaster model change someone’s smile, and change someone’s life. I highly recommend, if you are a dental technician, to consider donating your time for MOM. It is a most rewarding experience.” “I am very excited for the opportunity at this year’s MOM event for our newest generation of dentists to work side-by-side with current generations of dentists to better the oral health of those in great need. Thank you, and I look forward to working with MOM again.” “These MOM events are a wonderful way to give back to the local community. You don’t always have to travel outside the United States to serve those in need. Mecosta, Osceola and Lake counties are some of the poorest counties in Michigan.” “Volunteering my professional talents at the Saginaw Michigan Mission of Mercy event left me with a feeling of satisfaction greater than the amount of effort made in providing the needed dental care. There was no question the dental treatment received by the patients was well appreciated and I will look forward to participating in the next Mission of Mercy event.”

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Note: donor list is current as of March 1, 2014. An updated list will be published in the MDA Journal.