

# Donated Dental Services Program

## What is Donated Dental Services?

Donated Dental Services (DDS) is a program of the New York State Dental Foundation and the National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped. DDS links volunteer dentists and laboratories throughout New York with elderly, disabled and medically compromised individuals who cannot afford necessary dental treatment.

## What is the problem?

Thousands of disadvantaged individuals suffer from painful dental disease because they cannot afford treatment. With limited incomes, and no dental insurance, many elderly, disabled and medically compromised individuals neglect their dental care until serious problems develop.

## How does it work?

A DDS coordinator is responsible for determining eligibility of applicants, linking patients with nearby volunteer dentists, monitoring each patient's progress through their treatment plan, and coordinating specialist and laboratory services. Resolving barriers that interfere with care, and supporting the dental professionals that participate in the DDS program are the coordinator's most important responsibilities.

## What involvement means?

Dentists donate non-emergency services in their office to at least one individual annually, who has serious neglected dental problems. The DDS coordinator will contact the dental office with a request to provide an initial consultation to an individual in need. This consultation is the dentist's opportunity to accept or decline the case and present treatment options to the patient. The DDS coordinator will help identify volunteer specialists and laboratories as needed. Upon completing treatment, dentists are asked to provide feedback about their DDS experience and to fill out a "value of treatment" card describing the services donated and their value.

While some dentists continue donating routine services or offer discounts to DDS patients, volunteers are not obligated to continue providing care after the agreed upon treatment plan is completed.

## Volunteer Liability

Dentists who donate services to DDS patients are subject to the same standard of care that applies to services provided to non-DDS patients. As such, it is recommended that all volunteers maintain appropriate malpractice insurance for any donated services provided under the program.

## How to get involved

To volunteer or for more information please visit [www.nysdentalfoundation.org](http://www.nysdentalfoundation.org) , or contact Heidi King by calling 518-449-0706, or via Email at [Hking@nfdh.org](mailto:Hking@nfdh.org) .