

NYS Dental Foundation Contributes \$15,000 to Community Health Programs

Baker Victory Dental Services (Lackawanna) – This organization has a long, proud and successful history of leadership serving people with special needs. Children with developmental disabilities or behavioral issues, families from low-income communities and senior citizens with a variety of needs represent the core of its patient population. These vulnerable individuals would typically go without dental care or access to dental education and training programs if BVDS did not work so hard to serve them. BVDC sought GKAS funding for its Children’s Oral Health Education program, a year round project centered on providing oral health education in the classroom by a registered dental hygienist or a NYS licensed dental assistant. BVDS’s program is innovative because its development utilizes multiple learning styles, as described by Dr. Neil Flemming’s VARK model, which ensures that every child, regardless of his/her learning preference, can experience programming that will stimulate him/her in one learning style or another.

PRASAD Children’s Dental Health Program (Hurleyville) – In Sullivan County, roughly 10 percent of the population lives below the poverty level. Hospital information indicates that only four out of 21 dentists here accept Medicaid. Five dentists accept a low cost health insurance called the Hudson Health Plan, but these dentists are usually booked and unable to readily take on new patients. PRASAD-CDHP has identified children in need of dental care and intervened by offering comprehensive dental services. The organization has initiated and maintained a dental prevention program that reduces the incidence of dental disease, and has built effective partnerships within the community in order to reach mutual goals. PRASAD-CDHP partners with nine school districts, Social Services, Sullivan County Public Health, Head Start, community colleges, Sullivan County Youth Bureau, Community Action Agency to Help the Economy and New York State officials and legislators. PRASAD-CDHP’s mission is to provide dental care and education has, in 12 years, served close to 50,000 children, providing more than 158,000 procedures at 17 different community sites in Sullivan and Ulster counties.

Tioga Mobile Dental Services (Owego) – Tioga Mobile Dental Services developed from the community’s documented need and the support and collaboration of human services agencies. In 1998 and again in 2003, Tioga County was designated as a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area for the Low-Income Population, having clearly demonstrated that individuals on Medicaid or with low incomes had very limited access to care. Furthermore, the majority of this rural county does not have fluoridation. Working with a Dental Steering Committee and with funding from a Small Cities Block Grant and with help from the NYS Health Department, Tioga Mobile Dental Services became the first program to be designated as a school based dental clinic and an Article 28 clinic. These designations allow the clinic to serve school students during school hours and the community during non-school hours. Now in its sixth school year, TMDS has a patient base of 5,020 individuals, 2530 school based patients and 2490 community based clinic patients. Staff includes a practice manager, PTE dentist, FTE dental hygienist and support

staff. In 11,520 school based visits and 9,072 Article 28 Clinic visits, the program has placed 6,313 sealants and completed 6,926 restorations, all in a two operator van.