



More than Dentistry. Life.®

New York
Donated Dental Services (DDS)

In Partnership with the
New York State Dental Association

P.O. Box 11247
Albany, NY 12211
518.449.0706
Toll Free: 888.623.2780
Fax: 518.465.3219
www.DentalLifeline.org

New York Donated Dental Services (DDS)

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Dental Lifeline Network • New York (DLN) through its Donated Dental Services (DDS) program has helped nearly 1,400 vulnerable people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile and have no other way to get dental treatment. Since 2003, these individuals have received almost \$8 million in comprehensive care from a volunteer network that has grown to 611 dentists and 140 dental laboratories. The New York DDS program is one of 43 DDS programs nationwide that this fiscal year will generate \$24.5 million in free dental care. Collectively since 1985, 110,000 people across the country have accessed almost \$325 million in free dental services through the DDS program.

Program Description: The New York DDS program helps individuals with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile and suffer from serious dental problems because they cannot afford treatment. Medicare does not include dental care for seniors, Medicaid provides limited adult dental services, and complex dental care is unaffordable for many working people. As a result, many of these individuals suffer in agonizing pain from serious dental problems and have nowhere else to turn. DDS started in the greater New York City area in 2003 and expanded statewide in 2009 when the New York State Dental Association (NYSDA) and its foundation endorsed the program.

Through DDS, dentists and dental laboratories across the state volunteer to provide comprehensive treatment to one or two patients per year. Volunteer dentists treat DDS patients in their own dental offices, which allows them to use their own equipment and staff. Dental labs also have been very generous and several manufacturers donate materials for dentures, crowns, bridges and implants. A DDS Program Coordinator manages the services and is critical to the program's success. The coordinators conduct telephone interviews to screen the applicants and determine eligibility. In addition, they link eligible patients with nearby volunteer dentists, monitor patient progress, arrange lab services, acquire the help of specialists as necessary, and follow up with the patient and volunteers.

Hundreds of New York dentists and dental laboratories are willing to help some of the state's most vulnerable residents through these programs, but without State financial support for treatment coordination, services are in jeopardy. More than 344 applicants are waiting for care through the DDS program, but with limited staff, we cannot serve all of the patients needing services nor utilize all of the 611 volunteer dentists who are willing to donate thousands of dollars in care. Two full-time coordinators in New York could help 425 vulnerable people receive \$1.98 million in donated treatment.

Program Impact: The DDS program restores the oral health and often transforms the lives of people who would not receive care otherwise, like 66-year-old Mrs. W., who lives in Jackson Heights. She suffers from spinal stenosis, arthritis in her knees, high blood pressure and had both hips replaced in 2003. In addition, she had severe dental health issues. Mrs. W. worked in social services her entire career until she had to retire because of her health. Now she relies on a small Social Security benefit to make ends meet. While she desperately needed dental care, it was too expensive. Thanks to her generous team of DDS volunteers, Mrs. W. received \$7,820 in free care that restored her oral health and improved her life! She wrote to share the life-changing impact this gift had. *"When I came to you, I was in constant pain; I was unable to chew food properly and was having recurring infections. Life was hard without a smile. Thanks to you, the pain in my teeth is gone, I am eating properly, and my medical condition has dramatically improved. You have been the best thing that has happened to me."*

Request: Dental Lifeline Network • New York seeks \$225,000 in state funding, which will expand and sustain the New York DDS program and provide 425 vulnerable New York residents with access to \$1.98 Million in comprehensive dental services.

Fiscal Year 2014-15 Results

- 175 Patients treated
- \$602,482 Value of donated dental care
- \$8.62 Donated care for every dollar spent.

As of 5/31/2016

- 611 Volunteer dentists
- 140 Volunteer labs
- 344 patients on wait list
- \$5,090 Average value of care per patient