

The second MOM-n-PA event will take place this year at Ag Hall in the Allentown Fair Grounds complex on Friday, September 12 and Saturday, September 13. Last year's inaugural event took place in Philadelphia at the end of May and provided FREE dental care to over 1800 patients. Care was provided by volunteer dentists, hygienists, dental assistants, and lab technicians with the help of office staff, lay people and medical professionals. There were over 1000 volunteers for this event and \$850,000 worth of dental care was provided. The net cost of the program was \$131,000 so for every dollar spent we generated \$6.49 in free care.

There is a tremendous need for this type of program in the Lehigh Valley. As co-director of the residency program at Lehigh Valley Health Network, I can attest that we continually have to turn away patients for care (with the exception of severe emergencies) on a daily basis. Many people have no resources for dental care even though I know many of my colleagues help in ways that do not always get recognized. The demand is overwhelming and we can help to alleviate some of the community's need during this mission.

You and your staff, spouses, adult children and friends can make a difference. We need dentists to provide care (General Dentists, Oral Surgeons, Endodontists, Prosthodontists, and Pediatric Dentists especially). We need hygienists and dental assistants, EFDAs and Lab Techs. We need people to help with administrative duties, checking in patients, "runners" on the clinic floor, patient ambassadors, people to help with sterilization and radiographs and those who can administer local anesthetics. We need people to help with providing food and beverages for our volunteers and snacks for patients. Patients receive oral health education and kits upon discharge so volunteers are needed for that as well. There are many opportunities for people to serve.

Volunteers, especially dental providers, are asked to give 5 hours of service each day. The morning shift generally starts at 7:00 AM until noon, and the afternoon shift is noon until 5:00 PM.

We will seek patients from the local community but last year there were folks from NJ, Maryland and Delaware who came to the clinic. Anyone needing care is treated regardless of income, insurance or financial status. We will work with social agencies, church groups and medical clinics to advertise the program. Medical screening is done to assure patients are medically cleared for treatment.

Much more information can be found at [www.mom-n-pa.com](http://www.mom-n-pa.com) . Registration for volunteers of all sorts opens on June 1. If you do not have time to donate your talents, please consider a monetary donation through the website. ANY amount will help in funding this cause – our costs this year will be over \$170,000. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me via email at [cjidmd@ptd.net](mailto:cjidmd@ptd.net).

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your anticipated help with this important event. We can make a difference together in the oral health needs of our community and this is a wonderful opportunity to do so.

Charlie Incalcaterra

Community Chair, MOM-n-PA in Allentown