

History of Nebraska Mission of Mercy - NMOM

In 2001, the Virginia Dental Health Foundation launched the Mission of Mercy (MOM) Project. The Mission of Mercy Projects are conducted in identified, underserved areas of the state where there are not enough dental practitioners to adequately address the oral health needs of the community. Also in 2001, the first-ever Texas Mission of Mercy (TMOM) provided free dental, eye, and medical care to uninsured and low-income adults and children. In 2003, the Kansas Dental Foundation held their first KMOM.

Nebraska

Nebraska held its first NMOM in North Platte in 2005. Coupled with the vision of Drs. John Ahlschwede, George Schlothauer, Jim Jenkins and Jim States, the first NMOM was chaired by Dr. States in North Platte in October of 2005. 900+ patients were seen in two days and with the help of Kansas (KMOM) individuals and equipment over \$350,000 of dental care was provided. At that time NMOM had very little equipment of their own but were fortunate to use the equipment of Kansas, as well as have the expertise of Kansas dentists, Dr. Jeff Stasch, Dr. Jon Tilton, Dr. Max MacReynolds, Executive Director, Kevin Robertson of the Kansas Dental Association, and others.



NMOM 2006 was held in Grand Island in September of 2006, spearheaded by Dr. Steve Anderson. Due to a generous donation by the Kiewit Foundation, NMOM now had 35 portable chairs, dental units and lights (an additional 15 portable chairs, units and lights were added later in early 2007). 1600+ patients were seen and approximately \$700,000 of dental care was administered to 'those who need it the most'.



NMOM 2007 was held in Norfolk and was chaired by Dr Bob Smith. Each NMOM becomes a little easier to organize and administer as we have learned from Kansas how to set up and take down the equipment in an orderly manner. 1,393 patients were served and \$504,606 in dental care was provided. Dental volunteers: 112 Dentists; 104 Dental Assistants; 87 Office Staff; 56 Hygienists; 13 Health Care; 5 Lab Techs. 80 translators and over 400 other volunteers participated. Patterson Dental & Sullivan-Schein provided invaluable assistance

in set-up and tear down of the dental clinic.

NMOM 2008 took place in Mitchell, Nebraska, on October 9 and 10th. Chaired by Dr George Schlothauer, 80 Dentists, 62 Dental Assistants, 42 Office Staff, 40 Hygienists, 2 Health Care, 6 Lab Techs, several translators and hundreds of other volunteers participated. 1,065 patients were seen over two days, providing \$571,515 worth of dental care.



NMOM 2009 - was held July 10 & 11 at Papillion/LaVista South High School, treating 1,427 patients and providing \$608,621 in dental services. Dentists from across the state, including several from Kansas, Iowa and Colorado, were supported by hundreds of dental assistants, hygienists, staff, lab techs and volunteers during the two day event, with all professional care, equipment and materials donated.

NMOM 2005-2009: a total of more than 6,000 people have been treated, with dentists providing nearly \$2.75 million in free dental care.