

MDS Foundation

Members Hold First MDS Foundation Ambassador Program

Congratulations to MDS Foundation Ambassadors Drs. Diane Bonanni and Badrieh Edalatpour, who completed the Foundation's first-ever Ambassador Program event with the assistance of their colleagues Drs. Joy Kasparian-Federico and Roshanak Ghazinouri. The event, which was held in conjunction with the Stoneham Health and Wellness Expo at the Stoneham Middle School, took place on April 2, 2016. The main focus of the Ambassador event was to provide custom-fit sport mouthguards to local children and teens.

In total, 66 individuals—many of whom play on the local football and lacrosse teams—sat for impressions and received guidance on proper oral health and the importance of wearing a mouthguard to prevent sports-related injuries. Given the retail value of a custom-fit mouthguard, which can range from \$120 to \$200, it's estimated that more than \$10,000 worth of products and services were donated that day.

If you are interested in creating your own event to offer dental assistance in your community and would like to learn more about the MDS Foundation Ambassador Program, please visit massdental.org/ambassador or contact Jennifer Hanlin, MDS Foundation assistant clerk, at jhanlin@massdental.org or call 800.342.9797, ext. 276.



Dr. Diane Bonanni fits Stoneham student-athlete Dylan Doherty for a custom mouthguard.



From left: Drs. Badrieh Edalatpour, Diane Bonanni, Roshanak Ghazinouri, and Joy Kasparian-Federico set up for the MDS Foundation Ambassador event at the Stoneham Middle School.

Foundation Announces Targeted Grant Recipients

At its April meeting, the MDS Foundation Board voted in favor of supporting three Massachusetts organizations with targeted grants to increase access to dental care for the residents of the Commonwealth.

Attleboro-based Elder Dental Program received a \$2,000 grant to assist with the screening process for seniors seeking affordable dental care. The organization assists local seniors in obtaining much-needed oral care at a reduced rate. The discounted care is provided courtesy of area dentists who agree to participate in the program.

The Children's Dental Center in Gloucester received \$1,980 to fund 66 school bus transports to the center from the Gloucester public schools. Servicing the children of Cape Ann, the Children's Dental Center is sponsored by the City of Gloucester Health Department.

The Foundation Board also voted in favor of donating toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental floss to the Cape Kids Meal organization, which provides prepacked bags of food for children who participate in the school system's free and reduced lunch and breakfast programs so that they can receive proper nutrition during non-school hours. With the grant funds, the program will be adding a "dental goodie bag" to the packages to help the children maintain proper oral hygiene.

If you know of any organizations seeking to expand access to dental care that could benefit from an MDS Foundation grant, please refer them to Jennifer Hanlin, MDS Foundation assistant clerk, at jhanlin@massdental.org or 800.342.9767, ext. 276. You can also refer them to the Foundation's grant webpage at massdental.org/grants.