



THE CHARITABLE ARM OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS
DENTAL SOCIETY

MISSION

&

IMPACT

massdental.org/foundation

“ The support that we received from the MDS Foundation was vital in providing the financial stability Bridge needs to continue our dynamic and effective programs for homeless youth. ”

– Barbara Baxter, Bridge Over Troubled Water, Boston

“ Oral health education should begin at an early age; oral health is extremely important not only for teeth but also for overall health. Healthy teeth lead to healthy smiles, minds, and bodies! Thank you to the MDS Foundation for making this happen! I would love to do this kind of volunteer event every year! ”

– Dr. Sabina Malla, MDS Foundation Ambassador, Dartmouth

“ Wow, it has been a long time since I had a new toothbrush and floss. It is really nice to know that there are organizations like the MDS Foundation that really care about us. ”

– Client, Vinfen Crisis Stabilization, Hyannis

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TeamSmile Children's Oral Health Event – Boston



Mini Medical & Dental School for Middle Schoolers – Nantucket



Give Kids a Smile Children's Oral Health Event – Boston



Team Smile Children's Oral Health Event – Boston



Children's Oral Health Screening – Boston



Give Kids A Smile Children's Oral Health Event – Lawrence

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

It is widely accepted that good oral health is an important part of good overall health, yet poor oral health remains a public health issue across the country and right here in Massachusetts. Oral disease is often silent or invisible, but it has profound effects.

Many years ago, I had one patient at a shelter who was missing his front tooth. The shelter did a good job at training this individual for the skills he needed to go back into the workforce; however, he was turned down by many employers due to the way he presented for the interview. Making him a simple partial denture changed his employment opportunities and completely changed his self-confidence. He got a job after the next interview.

There are many children in Massachusetts who go to school in pain due to untreated dental disease and are unable to concentrate on their classes. Many adults miss work, or are less productive if they go, because of oral health problems. For all of the successes we have had in treating oral health needs, there are many individuals that fall through the cracks. They end up at emergency rooms to get relief for their pain or have teeth extracted that otherwise might have been saved if treated at an earlier stage.

For more than seven years, the MDS Foundation has been working to address the problem of oral health by increasing access to care for underserved populations and raising awareness about the importance of good oral hygiene and regular dental care. Each year, the Foundation Board awards grants to fund vital efforts to improve oral health. Grants have gone toward a variety of projects ranging from providing free dental services to homeless youth, to building an additional operatory to increase patient capacity at a community health center, to teaching children and seniors about oral health.

Thanks to all of our supporters, we have made significant headway in fulfilling our mission to improve oral health across the Commonwealth. While there is certainly more work that must be done, I know that through our collective efforts, the Foundation will continue to succeed.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Lewando DDS". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Robert Lewando, DDS

Chair, MDS Foundation Board

MISSION

The MDS Foundation is dedicated to directing its charitable resources to improve the oral health of Massachusetts residents.

**Providing free care
for children**

**Expanding
brick-and-mortar
facilities**

**Increasing access to
care in underserved
communities**

**Adding endodontic
therapy**



**Providing oral
hygiene kits**

**Increasing access
to education**

**Decreasing
wait times**

**Increasing
availability of
high-tech equipment**

STATISTICS WE ASPIRE TO IMPROVE

59%

of Massachusetts seniors (age 60-plus) in long-term-care facilities have untreated decay.

—Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, 2009



61% of low-income third graders in Massachusetts have had at least one cavity.

—Catalyst Institute, 2008



1 in 2 young people ages one to 21 enrolled in MassHealth has not visited a dentist in the past year.

—U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services, 2014



1 in 4 adults in Massachusetts has not visited a dentist in the past year.

—CDC, 2014



Nearly **1 in 5 third graders** in Massachusetts has untreated tooth decay.

—Catalyst Institute, 2008

31%

of disabled adults were missing six or more teeth, compared with **11%** of nondisabled adults.

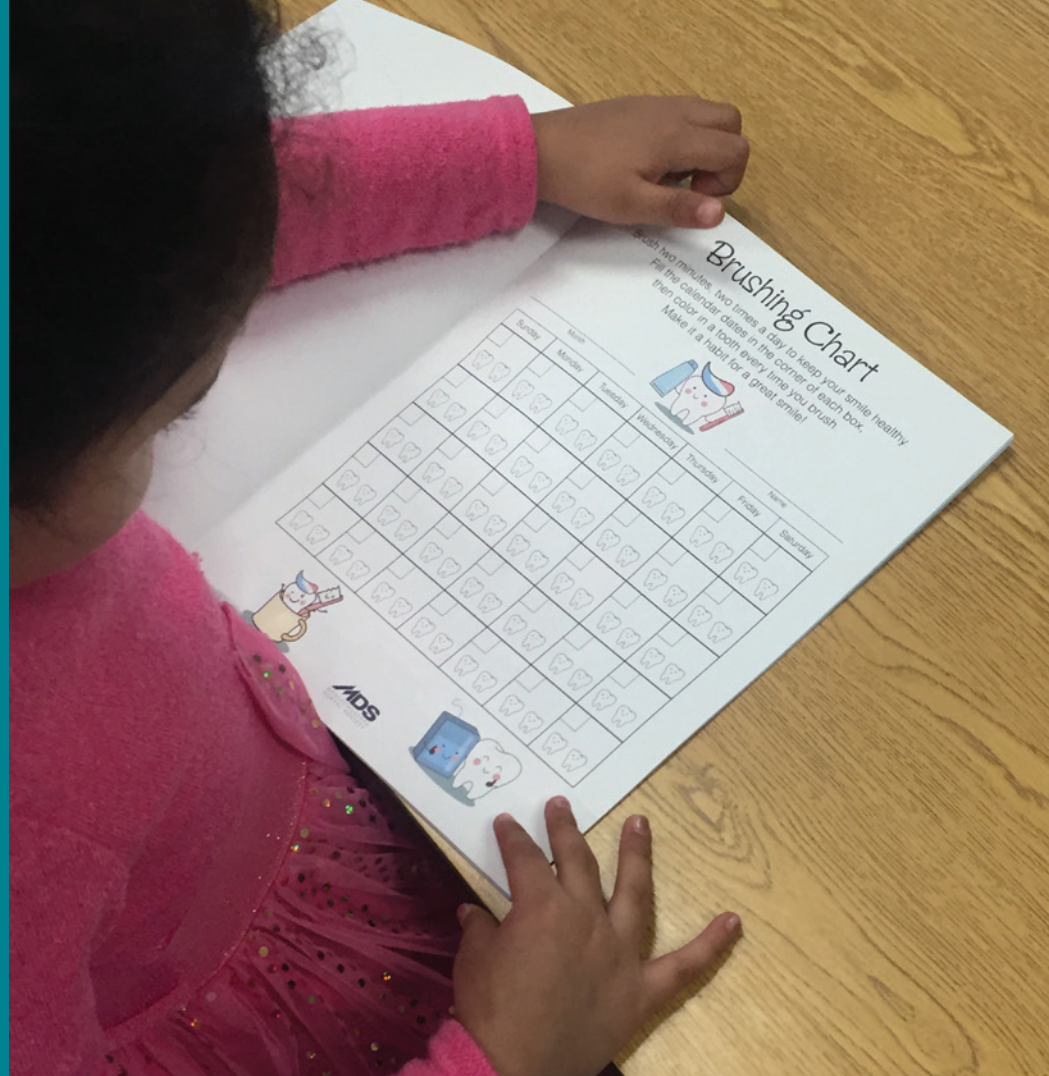
—Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, 2014

“Cape Kid Meals was so excited to receive this help from the MDS Foundation. Many of the children that we work with do not have regular access to dental care, and the dental goodie bags we were able to provide them with will help to improve their oral health. I can't tell you how much they make a difference for these kids. I don't think they would brush their teeth without them.”

– Julie Dees, Cape Kid Meals

Dental goodie bags included:

Toothbrush	Toothpaste
Floss	Brushing Timer



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Worcester
**Edward
M. Kennedy
Community
Health Center**
\$20,000

Built new operatory
to increase patient
capacity by **1,000**
visits per year

*Great
Barrington*
**Volunteers
in Medicine
(VIM Berkshires)**
\$25,000

Hired additional staff to
allow more than **450**
uninsured residents
to receive dental care and
procedures

Hyannis
**Vinfen
Community
Crisis
Stabilization**
\$1,236

Provided oral hygiene kits
to **600 individuals** in
psychiatric crisis

*Boston, Lynn,
and Fitchburg*
ForsythKids
\$15,000

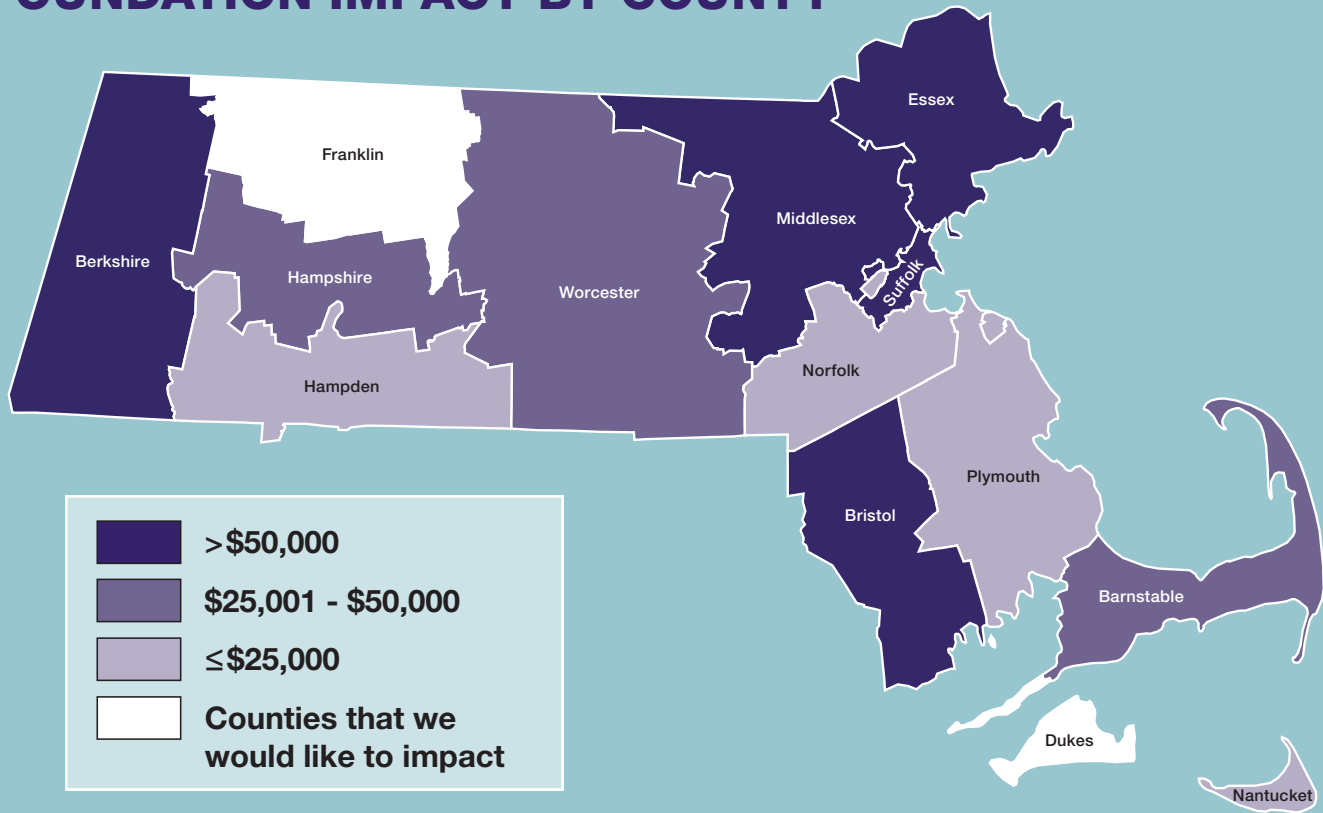
Expanded school
oral health program
to reach **2,000**
at-risk children

Boston
**Give Kids a
Smile Day at
Tufts University**
\$2,000

Provided free dental
screenings and fluoride
treatments to
74 children

Provided oral health
education to
150 family members

FOUNDATION IMPACT BY COUNTY



Over the last seven years, the MDS Foundation has given
\$639,331 to help improve oral health in Massachusetts.
These funds were divided across nearly 50 grant proposals.

Access to Care:

\$604,989

Provided to assist in funding innovative, community-supported programs that increase access to dental care for Massachusetts residents and have measurable improvement goals.

Targeted:

\$16,672

Awarded to organizations that are seeking to increase access to dental care on a smaller level. These one-time grants are limited to \$2,000 and open to public organizations.

Ambassador:

\$17,670

Allowed members of the Massachusetts Dental Society to give back to the communities in which they live and serve with grants of up to \$2,000 to help fund community service programs.

GET INVOLVED

APPLY FOR GRANTS

Have an idea for a grant proposal? Learn about the grant application process at massdental.org/grants

MAKE A GIFT TO THE FOUNDATION

You can support the work of the Foundation by making a tax-deductible donation. Donate at massdental.org/foundation and click the donate button.

QUESTIONS?

Want to know more about the work of the Foundation and how you can get involved? Contact Jennifer Hanlin, MDS Foundation assistant clerk, at jhanlin@massdental.org or **800.342.8747**.



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Two Willow Street, Southborough, MA 01745