

I would like to welcome you...

to the first mailing of the MDS Foundation newsletter. It has been a busy year and I believe the members of the Foundation have worked hard to make sure the money you have generously contributed has gone to help address the oral health needs of the people in Massachusetts. The most recent grant went to the Harvard Street Community Health Center in Dorchester. Several months ago, an urgent request came in for assistance in purchasing a new panorex machine. Their existing unit had broken and was unable to be repaired because of its age. The Foundation made an off-cycle grant to the Health Center to assist in the purchase of a new unit to support the dental care that is provided to the members of this underserved community. Several members of the MDS leadership and myself were invited to the Harvard Street Community Health Center recently to see the new panorex in operation. Several of the dental staff commented on how



Dr. Robert Lewando

grateful they were for the Foundation support in obtaining the new unit and how it greatly improved the diagnostic ability of the clinical staff.

We have also continued to review requests for Ambassador Grants where any dentist in the MDS can request assistance in providing oral health related activities in their community. The Foundation has granted six of these requests since the program started early this year from services ranging from oral cancer screenings, oral health education, to making mouthguards. In all instances, the individuals benefitting from these services know it is coming from the MDS Foundation and the dentists supporting it.

This is your Foundation and the work that we do is on your behalf. It is through our collective efforts that we continue to succeed.

Thank you for your support.

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Worcester District Holds Its First Ambassador Program Event

MDS Foundation Ambassadors and Worcester District Dental Society members Dr. Charles Gagne and Dr. James Morin have partnered with the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) and its freshman dental assisting class to provide oral health education to first-grade students at the Memorial Elementary School in Upton and the Henry P. Clough Elementary School in Mendon.

In total, 17 BVT students and their dental assisting instructors Amy Fleisher and Rebecca Corda, along with MDS Foundation Ambassador Dr. James Morin, visited the two elementary schools during April and May of 2016. More than 155 first grade students across eight classes participated in the Project S.M.I.L.E (Students Making Important Lasting Effects) events.

The Project S.M.I.L.E community service program was developed by BVT



MDS Foundation Ambassador Dr. James Morin (center) teamed up with the Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School's dental assisting class of 2019 to provide oral health education to first graders at the Henry P. Clough Elementary School in Mendon.

Blackstone Valley Technical High School Dental Assisting Class of 2019

Ashley Bruneau
Victoria Byrne
John Robert Doiron
Briana Fay
Alexandra Mathis
Kelley Muanya

Nancy Nguyen
Hannah Nicoletti
Elizabeth Parry
Megan Reilly
Benjamin Ruth

Saddaf Sabir
Tessa Schollard
Braelyn Sessa
Lindsey Testa
Maya Trombino
Kayla Wittenberg

students and is geared toward providing oral health education through hands-on activities such as toothbrushing and flossing demonstrations, proper nutrition instruction, and distribution of goody bags filled with toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss/flossers, stickers, and brochures/activity sheets. The kids were also sent home with a letter to their parents and guardians highlighting Project S.M.I.L.E and offering further information on the importance of dental care for children.

BVT high school dental assisting students also coordinated a similar project for middle-school-aged children called "Watch-Your-Mouth Middle-Schooler" and a program run by the senior dental assisting class called "Seniors for Seniors." Each program is designed to provide customized oral health education and resources to children and seniors in the communities throughout the Worcester District.

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.