This fall we kick-off our new fundraising campaign: several tours of duty on the Tooth Taxi. Also check out and Boys & Girls Clubs sites on page 5. We also serving Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) Oregonians get dental care and oral health education. nonprofit dental clinics and helped over 250,000 Oregonians get dental care and oral health education.

Dear friends,

Where do you stand?

Thank you, Tooth Taxi volunteers (as of 8/31/09)

We are grateful for all those who make this work possible. Thank you for helping us make a difference for Oregon children.

Thank you Charlie LaTourrette Executive Director 503-594-0881

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DONORS page 8

Thank you to our donors (as of 8/31/2009)

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With the 2009 grants, the Dental Foundation has reached the milestone of giving more than $1 million to nonprofit dental programs that have helped over 250,000 Oregonians get dental care and oral health education. “Supporting nonprofit dental programs is an important part of what we do,” said Charlie LaTourette, DFO’s executive director. “It is especially important during this economic recession that we take care of Oregon’s children — certainly one of our most vulnerable populations.”

Tooth Taxi Reaches Year-One Milestone!

Over 4,250 students served and $1,001,742 in free dental care provided

Completing its first year on the road September 3, 2009, the Tooth Taxi mobile dental van has surpassed expectations serving over 4,250 children and delivering $1,001,742 in free dental services. The Tooth Taxi provided comprehensive and preventive care to underserved children in over 45 schools and communities throughout Oregon. “We are very excited about reaching this milestone,” said Charlie LaTourette, DFO’s executive director. “The program is making a significant difference in the lives of thousands of Oregon children, and we are very grateful to the Tooth Taxi staff, our partners OEA Choice Trust and ODS Companies, and our many volunteers and donors for helping to make it a success.”

Save the Date
May 21, 2010
Chip! for Teeth
Riverside Golf & Country Club
For sponsorship and player information call DFO at 503-594-0880

Some players are just more committed to the game.
appropriate instruction, a video presentation and lecture. Each patient receives an oral hygiene kit and, parents are asked to attend two classes. Neomi Rios (above) delivers an in-class oral health education session to pregnant mothers.

Between 2008 and 2009, 102 women participated in the OB Baby Dental Project, attending hygiene visits and participating in oral health education sessions. Program participants showed positive health outcomes with their pregnancies and deliveries. Of the 102 OB Baby Dental Project participants, only one baby was born at low birth weight and two were born prematurely — while 10 low-birth-weight babies were born to mothers who did not participate in the OB Baby Dental Project.

Fabiola, a pregnant mother who had never had previous dental care, was able to participate in the OB Baby Dental Project. “We were able to provide extensive periodontal treatment that resulted in healthy gums and a very pleased patient,” said Karen Hall, dental hygienist at the Virginia Garcia Dental Clinic. “She not only received needed treatment, but she attended the education sessions for pregnant women, which help women learn to clean their own teeth, their baby’s teeth, the teeth of other children and her other family members.”

Fabiola’s story is just one example of how the OB Baby Dental Project, supported by a DFO Community Grant, impacts entire families. Fabiola’s baby has a head start on healthy teeth and gums, and Fabiola’s other family members have already gained the tools they need to maintain good oral health and overall wellness.

—Christine Rontal MSW VGMF Exec. Director

Tooth Taxi Volunteer Spotlight

Molly Morse, RDH
Registered Dental Hygienist

My name is Molly Morse, and I am a registered dental hygienist that has spent time volunteering on the Tooth Taxi. I am originally from Minnesota and went to dental hygiene school at Lake Superior College in Duluth, Minn., after finishing my bachelor’s degree in community health at Minnesota State University in Mankato, Minn. I practiced hygiene in Minnesota for two years before moving to Oregon. I lived in Bend, Ore., until December 2007, when I moved to Portland to join my husband while he attends dental school, which he will finish in 2011.

We have four “kids”: Wyatt is our two-and-a-half-year-old son, Paige is our three-month-old daughter, and Mac and Mabel are our seven-year-old Labrador retrievers. In our spare time (what is that?), we like spending time as a family in the outdoors, watching movies or just enjoying the entertainment of a two-and-a-half-year-old!

I grew up in a middle-class family, and as a child, I believed that all kids went to the dentist — this is not the case. I also was raised to try and help people in need. I have a unique skill access to on their own, and the Tooth Taxi enables me to give back. After doing my table clinic on pediatric dental care in dental hygiene school, I was hooked on pedo. I was blessed to work as a pediatric hygienist for three years but have now gone back to general dentistry. Volunteering on the Tooth Taxi gives me a chance to work with kids again, and I love it! Helping kids realize the importance of good dental care and making an impact on their health is so rewarding. I may not recognize each child if I saw him or her again, but the impact they make on me with a “thank you” and a smile after treatment is overwhelming.

Tooth Taxi Welcomes New Assistant

Michelle Kline joined the Tooth Taxi staff in August as our certified dental assistant. She is certified in radiology and expanded functions. Prior to the Tooth Taxi, Michelle worked in private practice for six years and spent the past year at ODS in Dental Customer Service. Michelle hails from Portland, attended PCC for dental assisting and has a bachelor’s degree in science from Oregon State University. Michelle loves spending time outdoors; her favorite spots are Bend and the Oregon coast. Michelle enjoys gardening and working with kids, and she is looking forward to making a difference in her new position and discovering new areas of Oregon.

During our summer “vacation” from visiting schools throughout Oregon, the Tooth Taxi was kept very busy providing free dental care and oral health education to children at Oregon Child Development Coalition (OCDC) sites that serve children of migrant and seasonal farm workers during Oregon’s peak agricultural months. The van visited OCDC sites in Cornelius, The Dalles, Gresham, Woodburn, Independence and Madras. In addition, the Tooth Taxi visited the Police Activities League summer program, the Children’s Community Clinic in Portland, the Multnomah Educational Service District (MESD) summer migrant program, and a Boys & Girls Club site in Albany. Our summer vacation efforts provided dental services to more than 650 children, and we delivered over $145,000 in free dental care. We are grateful to the many volunteer dentists, hygienists and dental assistants who helped make our visits successful. For a complete list of our incredible Tooth Taxi volunteers see page 7.