Healthy Family, Healthy Smiles

By Melody Finnemore

Rosa Rendon worried helplessly about how to find good dental care for her four children. The Rendon family, who moved to Gresham last year, has no dental insurance. With only Rosa’s husband, Miguel, working, they had no money to take their children to the dentist. There was little Rosa could do, she said, but pray.

When Rosa saw an announcement about the Tooth Taxi on television, it was an answer to her prayers. Rosa learned that the Tooth Taxi was visiting the Oregon Child Development Coalition’s Gresham office in August and would provide free dental care to children who needed it.

The Tooth Taxi, sponsored by the Dental Foundation of Oregon, OEA Choice Trust and ODS, is a state-of-the-art dental office on wheels. It is a direct service project started in 2008 in response to the growing oral health crisis in Oregon. Funded by donations from foundations, corporations and individuals, the Tooth Taxi is a statewide program that helps more than 3,000 schoolchildren each year and provides close to $1 million in free dental care annually.

...continues inside. See page 4.
Now is the Time

Oregon children have among the worst oral health in the nation and the situation is getting worse not better during the deepest recession in over eighty-years. Thousands of kids are in pain and at risk of developing oral infections that could have devastating consequences to their overall health.

With your help, we are working on behalf of children who can’t speak for themselves. We are advocating for community water fluoridation, supporting non-profit dental clinics that are the safety nets for thousands of families, and taking care directly to children on the Tooth Taxi. In two years, the Tooth Taxi has visited over 99 schools, helped over 7,300 students and delivered $1,902,426 in donated dental services.

The dental crisis is very real and far exceeds our limited resources. We desperately need your support to "fuel" the Tooth Taxi and help us continue our work to improve the oral health of Oregon’s most vulnerable children.

Imagine if you had no job or health insurance, and no way to take care of the healthcare of the children you love so dearly. That is the situation for thousands of Oregon families right now.

Now is the time when Oregonians should come together to make a difference for those who cannot help themselves.

Please help us make a difference by making a donation to DFO in the enclosed envelope or online at www.SmileOnOregon.org. Your support will help put a healthy smile on the face of a child who deserves to be treated as we would all like to be treated.

Thank you,

Charlie LaTourette
Executive Director
The Dental Foundation of Oregon Board of Directors has announced the following grants to support children’s dental health programs throughout Oregon.

**2010 Grantees include:**
- $3,000 to Advantage Smiles for Kids (Redmond)
- $5,000 to the Assistance League of Eugene Children’s Dental Center
- $10,000 to the Albany Boys & Girls Club for their new dental center
- $4,000 to the Children’s Dental Clinic of Jackson County (Medford)
- $10,000 for the new Friends of Creston Children’s Dental Clinic (Portland)
- $5,000 to Deschutes County Healthy Beginnings (Bend)
- $2,000 to Multnomah Dental Society for their Children’s Health Fair
- $5,000 to support the OB Baby Dental Program at the Virginia Garcia Memorial Health Center (Cornelius)

"We are very pleased to support these important dental programs throughout Oregon," said Dr. Steve Simmons, DMD and Chair of the DFO Grant Committee. "DFO community grants help many more children than we could as individuals in our offices, and they demonstrate dentistry’s commitment to the underserved which is good for dentistry too."

Since its inception, the DFO Community Grant Program has provided over one million dollars to nonprofit dental programs and helped over 200,000 Oregonians.

## Grant to Creston Clinic Helps Kids

**Forty-Nine Years Ago,** the Creston Dental Clinic opened to provide dental care to low-income students in Portland who didn’t have dental insurance. The clinic serves as an important safety net and has helped thousands of children. Recently, when they heard the clinic might close, dentists from the Multnomah County Dental Society took over the clinic to keep it running, and established a new 501(c)(3) organization named “Friends of Creston Children’s Dental Clinic” (FCCDC).

The DFO is pleased to provide a $10,000 grant to the Friends of Creston Children’s Dental Clinic to help provide operating support, and help the clinic as it works to secure permanent funding.
Unlike other dental vans, the Tooth Taxi has a full-time dentist and staff, and it spends up to a week at a school providing screenings, cleanings, sealants, X-rays, fillings, minor oral surgery and oral health education for Oregon’s neediest children. This extra time in the community allows for comprehensive treatment of the most serious cases, and gives local dental volunteers an opportunity to make a meaningful difference.

Staff dentist Erica Waldau, DMD, cared for the Rendon’s four children, who range from 4th to 10th grade. Each of the children suffered from calculus buildup, swollen bleeding gums, and heavy "black line stain." Caused by a chromogenic bacteria, the black stain is tenacious and difficult to remove, Dr. Waldau said.

"We worked very hard on all of them and were able to remove the majority of the staining and calculus with ultrasonics and hand scaling/polishing," she said. "We also spent a little extra time stressing and showing how to maintain their oral hygiene at home, since they will have to work a little harder than normal to keep the stains at bay."

When the treatment was complete, two of the Rendon children had received 22 sealants. The cost of dental care for all four: $2,504. The relief evident in Rosa Rendon’s voice after the Tooth Taxi visit: priceless.

"She feels so happy that these people came to do something that makes such a big difference in their life," said Dora Sanchez, an OCDC staff member who translated for Rosa. "She said she was so thankful, she was ready to cry."

Each child who visited the Tooth Taxi received a sticker on their shirt, a ring or bouncy ball, and a care package that included a new toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, a dental mirror and a timer so they know how long to brush their teeth.

"The key really is to make this a positive experience for the kids," said Mary Daly, Tooth Taxi program manager.

Children received cards to track their fluoride treatments, which also serve as a reminder for parents. In addition, Dr. Waldau printed out a photocopy of each child’s dental X-ray and wrote notes about the treatment that was provided and what future care is needed. The goal, Daly said, is to educate parents. "The screenings are a good education piece as well," she added.

High school students Ana Velasco (pictured left) and Danny Soto (pictured on the next page) sought care at the Tooth Taxi following the Rendon’s visit. Both teens admitted to being nervous before their treatment, but left the Tooth Taxi with a smile and a sense of relief.

Dr. Waldau said her time with the Tooth Taxi reinforces her commitment to educating communities about how to improve their oral health.

Rafael received three treatments on the Tooth Taxi over two weeks. He always had his two little brothers in tow when visiting the van, and afterwards standing at the toy box he would take a bouncy ball “for his brother.”

On his last visit he said he had a present for us. When his treatment was finished he bounced out of the van yelling to his mom who was at the other end of the parking lot. He went to the car and came back with rose bouquets for Dr. Waldau and the staff.

Over the course of three appointments his dental treatment went from a Category 4 (immediate care needed) to “Treatment Complete.” Rafael received $1,781 in donated dental services, and we received a priceless gift of thanks from his family.

"I’ve learned that dental care is very important. It’s important to be healthy and have a great smile."
—Ana Velasco

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THANK YOU!

TOOTH TAXI

January 1, 2010 through August 31, 2010

Tooth Taxi Volunteers

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Tanya Barton
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Dr. Athena Bettger
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We can always use a helping hand.

Here is our upcoming schedule. If you are able to volunteer on the Tooth Taxi when we’re in your area, please contact Mary Daly at 503-329-8877 or mary.daly@SmileOnOregon.org.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week of</th>
<th>City</th>
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Deferred gifts are a wonderful way to establish a family legacy, set a philanthropic example for future generations and have a positive and lasting impact on community dental health.

By becoming a member of the DFO Cornerstone Society, donors ensure that the mission of The Dental Foundation of Oregon lives on through community dental clinics, education programs and projects like our Tooth Taxi mobile dental van, all of which enhance the lives and oral health of Oregon’s neediest children.

Planned gifts not only benefit DFO, but they benefit the donor’s estate as well. Tax deductible gifts reduce or eliminate potential capital gains taxes as well as estate and inheritance taxes. A planned gift can provide positive tax savings to the donor and his estate and at the same time enable a larger or more significant gift amount to be made to the DFO.

Joining the DFO Cornerstone Society Is Easy

The only qualification for membership is to notify the Dental Foundation of Oregon that some sort of testamentary provision has been made. You may simply call the DFO staff or notify DFO in writing regarding the nature of your bequest or charitable gift plan. The size of the gift need not be disclosed.

You may wish to share a copy of the specific section of your will or trust document that references DFO; all information will be held in strictest confidence. You may also wish to be an anonymous member of the Society.

The DFO works with the Oregon Community Foundation to structure and administer planned gifts. We encourage donors to involve their personal attorneys, financial advisors or accountants to help structure a planned gift that is beneficial to the donor’s estate. Contact Judy Edgerly, Coordinator Development and Planned Giving at foundation@smileonoregon.org or 503-594-0880.

What we believe

Dentistry has been very good to us, and we believe it is important to help those less fortunate. That’s why we joined the Cornerstone Society of the Dental Foundation of Oregon (DFO).

By including the DFO in your estate plan, you automatically become a member of our Cornerstone Society and make a lasting difference while giving back to your profession. Your gift costs you nothing during your lifetime and your heirs may also benefit from reduced estate taxes.*

Your membership in the Cornerstone Society ensures a healthier future for Oregon children. Please call or e-mail Judy Edgerly and learn how easy it is to join.

Call 503.594.0880
E-mail foundation@smileonoregon.org
Visit www.smileonoregon.org

*Please consult your tax or legal advisor to determine how a planned gift will affect you and your estate.

“By naming the Dental Foundation of Oregon as a beneficiary in our benevolent IRA, we can continue to help take care of children’s dental needs in Oregon, long after we are gone.”
— Dr. George “Jim” Darke, DDS
Retired dentist; Cornerstone Society and DFO board member

“By leaving a legacy, I can continue to help people improve their lives and make a better society.”
— Dr. Patrick M. Nearing, DMD
General practitioner, Cornerstone Society member and president of the DFO Board of Directors
Corporate and Foundation Giving

Dental Champions $100,000+
Meyer Memorial Trust
ODS
OEA Choice Trust
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ODA Member Dentists
Providence Health and Services
Partners-in-Health
Community Grants Council
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One of our best ever!
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On your retirement.
Thanks for everything.
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