



THE smile sheet

Spring 2010



THE DENTAL FOUNDATION OF OREGON

thousands of miles, INFINITE SMILES

Tooth Taxi celebrates first-year successes while driving on toward growing need

By Melody Finnemore



IN THE SMALL, SOUTHERN OREGON TOWN OF RIDDLE, big changes are underway for several students who typically experience dental care as a rare privilege rather than a routine part of a healthy lifestyle.

Riddle was one recent stop for the Tooth Taxi, the mobile dental clinic sponsored by the Dental Foundation of Oregon in partnership with OEA Choice Trust and ODS. The Tooth Taxi began traveling throughout the state in late 2008 to provide dental care and oral health education for underserved students.

Staffed by Dr. Weston Heringer Jr., Certified Dental Assistant Stephanie Vogt and James Olcott, the Tooth Taxi carries out the DFO's mission of improving oral health for Oregon's children with the support of countless volunteers in the communities it serves.

Among those volunteers is **Mary Wilson** (pictured top left with her son), a Riddle parent who worked tirelessly to call other parents, track down

paperwork and provide the Tooth Taxi with updates in the weeks leading up to its visit. Principal **Kristi Reukauf** (pictured below with Stephanie and James) recruited Wilson after learning about the Tooth Taxi last June at the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators conference in Seaside.

Of the 92 students screened inside the Tooth Taxi, 27 received treatment. One of them was an eighth-grade girl who had 20 cavities in 28 permanent teeth.

Dr. Heringer wrote a letter about his findings for school officials, who requested the documentation because they believe the girl is neglected by family members.

...continues inside. See page 4.



myths and superheroes

Unlike the Tooth Fairy, who really does exist, there is a myth about children's dental health that goes something like this: "Oregon children already have access to dental care through the state Medicaid program, so we no longer need community dental clinics or programs like the Tooth Taxi."

The reality is quite different; thousands of children are suffering dental pain every day in our schools. Even children "covered" under the Oregon Health Plan—our state Medicaid insurance program—are not getting the care they need. In a recent study from the PEW Charitable Trust Center on the States, they reported that only 34.9% of Oregon children enrolled in the Medicaid program received any dental care in 2007.

Fortunately, many caring people are aware of this tragedy including dental professionals who already volunteer extensively in their offices, at clinics and

for programs like the Tooth Taxi. Many of Oregon's leading foundations, employers and civic leaders recognize that we need to do more to help children who can't help themselves, and their support is helping make a real difference.

In this newsletter, you will read about some of our heroes: Tooth Taxi staff, volunteers, teachers, and supporters who are working to improve oral health for Oregon's children. And you will read about some of the children they are helping.

Thousands of children need access to quality dental care in Oregon. That's no myth. In a perfect world we would not need non-profit dental clinics or Tooth Taxis.

We don't live in that world. Yet.



charlie@SmileOnOregon.org

Oregon Dental Conference Update

DFO and the Tooth Taxi attended the ODC, April 8–10 at the Oregon Convention Center, where we presented volunteer service awards, held a bike raffle and had our Wall of Wine fund raising event.



President of the DFO Board, Patrick Nearing, DMD, recognized **Weston W. Heringer, Jr., DMD**, with the **DFO Dental Champion Award** for his service as the pediatric dentist on the Tooth Taxi, and for his life-long service to those less fortunate in Oregon and around the world.

Dr. Nearing also presented the **DFO Friend of the Foundation Award** to **Janet P. Peterson, DMD**, and **Molly Morse, RDH**, for their outstanding volunteerism on the Tooth Taxi mobile dental van during the past year.



Dr. Kenneth Johnson of Corvallis pulled a 1978 bottle of *Chateau Ducru Beaucaillou* from our Wall of Wine fund raiser at the ODC. The bottle, donated by Dr. Anthony Hoffman, is estimated to be worth \$175. The Wall of Wine raised over \$6,000 to support DFO programs. *See the list of wine donors on page 7.*



Dental program reaches more youngsters in Southern Oregon thanks to DFO support

Dental Foundation of Oregon provides grant to Community Health Center

By Barry Finnemore

Health insurance hasn't exactly been a constant for Katie Long and her family...

That's why she felt a huge sense of relief when her son, Hunter, received a free dental screening this year at Little Butte School in Eagle Point, northeast of Medford. The 9-year-old, who hadn't seen a dentist since age 5, got a checkup and a fluoride varnish treatment, **courtesy of a program supported by the Dental Foundation of Oregon** and provided by the White City-based Community Health Center.

Long admitted to feeling a pang of guilt when she received the news that Hunter needed follow-up care for an array of issues—from a build-up of plaque to possible cavities. But it was tempered by the fact that she had confirmation about where things stood with his dental health so it could be addressed.

Long, an instructional assistant at Little Butte, expressed nothing but praise for the dental outreach program, which provides both screenings and classroom-based oral health education. "Seeing the program come in and help all the children who need it, not just mine, it's just an amazing thing," she said. "It's wonderful."

Community Health Center received a \$4,000 grant from the Dental Foundation of Oregon for its dental screening program. By the end of the school year, the program

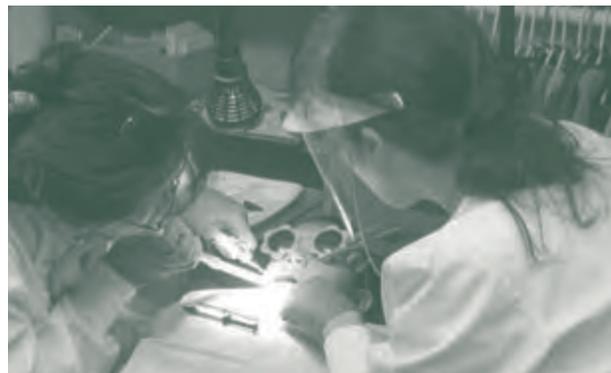
"If you value something, you take better care of it, and creating value in kids about their teeth is one of the things we are trying to do."

*—Melanie Breidenthal, RDH
Community Health Center*



will have served 2,100 youngsters in nine schools. Peg Crowley, the center's executive director, said the DFO's support has helped expand the program to more kids in the Eagle Point, Prospect and Butte Falls schools districts.

"It is tremendously rewarding," Crowley said. "Dental decay and poor dental health sets up barriers in life and has an immediate impact on health and long-term health. Our strategy is to get upstream and get children and families more engaged in prevention."



Dental needs among kids in Jackson County mirror those of youngsters statewide. According to the Community Health Center, an estimated 213 children and adolescents in the county's Upper Rogue region are either absent from school because of toothaches, or are in school but unable to concentrate because of significant and interfering dental pain every day. Statewide, educators estimate that 5,000 schoolchildren need urgent care due to pain and infection from tooth decay on any given day.

For uninsured children identified in screenings as needing additional dental care, community outreach workers follow up with their families to either help them enroll in the state's Children's Health Insurance Program or to receive care in partnership with the Children's Dental Clinic in Medford. "We consider them barrier busters," Crowley said of the health outreach workers.

For Katie Long and her family, health insurance is a reality again, thanks to the Oregon Health Plan, Community Health Partners, and the Dental Foundation of Oregon. "As a parent, it's been hard not to be able to provide (consistent health coverage) for my child, because I know how important that is. It's a big relief that it will happen for him now." 

Since January 2010, the Tooth Taxi has visited



Welcome Aboard, Stephanie!

Stephanie Vogl joined the Tooth Taxi team in February as the certified dental assistant. Stephanie graduated

from the dental assisting program at Bend's Central Oregon Community College. While attending school in Bend, Stephanie worked for Dr. Chad Stephenson and spent her free time pursuing her love of the outdoors. Stephanie has had a great introduction to the Tooth Taxi, serving wonderful kids and helping to make a difference in their lives and traveling to places she has never even heard of. Stephanie also enjoys helping people and has volunteered with Providence Children's Hospital, Adult Living Program in the Gresham-Barlow school district, a mission trip to Mexico, along with several other places. She looks forward to future volunteering around the state and world.



Tooth Taxi, continued from front cover...

Dental neglect, a form of child abuse, is one of the sad realities of the road for the Tooth Taxi.

Plenty of good news accompanies its visits as well. A record number of teachers in Riddle responded to an invite from the Tooth Taxi and received free hygiene kits stocked with Crest/Oral B supplies.

The Tooth Taxi kicked off the year by screening and treating students at Sacramento Elementary School in Northeast Portland, where 25 percent of students are English language learners and speak 15 different languages.

Though the communities differ greatly from each other, they share a common need for free dental care.

As a volunteer who provided dental care overseas for many years, Dr. Heringer expected few surprises when he volunteered to join the Tooth Taxi. He has seen plenty of tragedy right here in Oregon, including one youngster who tried to pull his own permanent tooth because he had been

in unbearable pain for over a year.

"The most rewarding part is you know you're providing care to people who really need it," Dr. Heringer said. "It's not the kids' fault the environment they are born into—whether they have insurance or are poor and barely scraping by, or their parents don't make dental care a priority."

Mary Daly, Tooth Taxi program manager, said the dental professionals, teachers, parents and other community members who volunteer to support the Tooth Taxi during its visits help make the program a success. And, while the need often is daunting, the Tooth Taxi team looks forward to serving even more children this year.

"We do say every week is an adventure and every school is different, and that's certainly true," Daly said. "The kids are so incredible, and it's great to give them such a positive experience and to know that it's something they will remember for a long time." 🦷

Since the Tooth Taxi hit the road in 2008, it has covered thousands of miles and inspired countless smiles. Here are just a few of its accomplishments between Sept. 4, 2008, and April 2, 2010.

6,179
students
screened

2,379
students treated
in the van

2,278
students have
received oral
hygiene education
in the classroom

**Total value of
free dental services provided
\$1,577,624**

THANK YOU!

Tooth Taxi Volunteers

January 1, 2010 through April 1, 2010



Jamie Allfrey	Kristen Holen
Dr. Jonathan Backer	Courtney Long
Dr. Teri Barichello	Lisa Mahoney
Dr. Andrea Beltzner	Kristen Martin
Emily Cameron	Heather Martin
Kia Cha	Dr. Laura Matin
Nicki Colby	Dr. Tammy McClung
Michelle Cook	Dr. Victoria Moore
Dr. Emily Cortes	Molly Morse, RDH
Dr. Ben Crockett	Hanna Perry
Debbie Davis	Brianna Peter
Dr. Gary Dehm	Dr. Anthony L. Ramos
Allison Fahlgren	Dr. Patricia Ridgley
Pam Farley	Wendy Rodgers
Dr. Kurt Ferré	Jenni Sadlier
Cindy Fletcher	Judy Sims
Anna Green, RDH	Dr. Bill Ten Pas
Laurie Green	Stephanie Vogl
Sherry Hawkins	Mary Wilson
Kara Hassoun	B.J. Wirges
Dr. Weston Heringer, III	Dr. Thomas Wold

ROCK SOLID

Dr. George (Jim) Darke *on*



Dentistry has been very good to me and my family, so a few years ago my wife Barbara and I decided we wanted to find a way to give back to the profession when we were gone. After discussing it with our attorney, we created a separate IRA we called the Benevolence IRA and named four charities we both cared about, including the Dental Foundation of Oregon, as beneficiaries.

Designating the four charities was simple. We worked directly with our IRA representative to fill out the form. We also found that it was easy to update or change the designation and did not require attorney time or additional costs. The IRA funds are not taxable to the charities, whereas had we left it to our children, it would have been taxable in our estate and to our heirs. This made it a win-win for us, our family and the causes we care about.

I have served on the DFO board of directors since 1992, and Barbara and I have provided financial support to the Foundation each year. We had always felt that DFO

Building a Foundation for Dentistry's Charity

should become Dentistry's Charity, and as DFO has grown over the years it is becoming just that. With the addition of the Tooth Tax it is really blossoming. But there is still so much more work to be done.

Building a solid foundation to meet tomorrow's needs and potentials should be Dentistry's goal. Because of this we have made the decision to give to DFO both during our lives, as well as after we have gone. Leaving a legacy of ongoing funding to DFO is important.

I invite you to join me and others in the DFO Cornerstone Society, whose members have named the Dental Foundation of Oregon in their will or estate plans, leaving a legacy for dentistry. 🙏

2010 May Be the Perfect Year to Convert Your Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA

STARTING THIS YEAR, if you have a traditional IRA, you may convert it to a Roth IRA regardless of your income. The conversion is taxable, but a thoughtful planned giving strategy may offset some—or even all—of this tax.

Learn more about these new rules and determine whether this is an opportunity you should take advantage of. Visit our website to read a comprehensive article by Bogumil, Holzgang & Harris, PC, on this topic. Meet with your financial advisor to determine if a conversion will be advantageous to you. To learn more about DFO Cornerstone Society, contact Judy Edgerly at 503-594-0880 or visit the DFO website at www.SmileOnOregon.org.



Wall of Wine

Thank you to our wine committee members:

- **Dr. Rick Asai**, DFO
- **David Chen**, Patton Valley Winery
- **Charles Hesson**, Dobbles Family Estate
- **John Paul**, Cameron Winery
- **Dr. Jill Price**, ODA
- **Dr. Steve Simmons**, DFO

DFO would also like to thank the following generous donors for their contributions to our Wall of Wine:

Individuals

Dr. Rickland and Betsy Asai
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 Oregon Dental Association
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 Whistling Ridge Vineyards
 Willamette Valley Winery Association

WELCOME

New Board Members



C.J. McLEOD was born and raised in the Salem area and attended Lewis and Clark College. He

taught high school and coached in Dallas, Oregon from 1974–1978 and began working for Standard Insurance Company in 1978. In 1985 he joined Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oregon as their regional manager in Salem. In 1993, he joined ODS as its Vice President, Sales and Marketing, and is currently their Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer. He is married to Jill Hicks McLeod and is grateful she has put up with him for the last 37 years. CJ and Jill have two children—Lincoln and Sybil—who are now grown and living in Portland. CJ has been actively involved in the community for many years. He served on the board of the Oregon Historical Society, the Oregon Hospice Association and the Oregon Trail Chapter of the Red Cross.



AMY L. BENSON, RDH is a dental hygienist living and working in Eastern Oregon. A graduate

of The Ohio State University, she is a member of the American Dental Hygiene Association and Oregon Section, and serves as the Secretary of the Dental Hygiene Advisory Board. Amy serves as a Dental Hygiene clinical and lab instructor at the ODS College of Dental Sciences in La Grande, Oregon and has a day of private practice in Baker City each week. She has served on volunteer dental missions in Honduras, Central America and has provided oral screenings for Baker Head Start. Amy also volunteered for the Blue Mountain Humane Society Spay and Neuter Fundraiser. She lives in Baker City, Oregon with her husband Sean Benson, DDS.

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Spring 2010



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Save the Date!

Chip! for Teeth

Friday, May 21

Langdon Farms Golf Club
Aurora

The Tooth Taxi was created through a unique partnership with...



And is **supported** by many **leading foundations, including:**

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Cow Creek Umpqua
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For a complete list
of our supporters, visit
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