



NORTH CAROLINA
DENTAL SOCIETY



Committee on Access to Healthcare in Rural North Carolina

Access to Care: Charitable Efforts

Dr. Gary D. Oyster
Raleigh, North Carolina
February 15, 2018

AN ONGOING GOAL

To reduce barriers to oral health care for North Carolina's underserved areas



Individual Practitioners

- Most dentists provide some form of free or discounted care to patients in their offices
- Dentists volunteer their services at area safety net clinics, e.g., Wake Smiles
- These efforts take place routinely across the state but often go unnoticed and unrecorded.



Formal NCDS Outreach Programs

- **North Carolina Missions of Mercy (NCMOM)**
 - Began in 2003
 - More than 200 two-day clinics across NC
 - 65,595 people treated
 - \$35M in free care



NCMOM Clinic Locations 2009 - 2017

Hayesville	Winston- Salem	Rocky Mount
Sylva	Reidsville	Fayetteville
Asheville	Raleigh	New London
Sparta	Greensboro	Cullowhee
Gastonia	Troy	Weldon
Hickory	Dare County	Goldsboro
Salisbury	Wilmington	Washington
Charlotte	New Bern	Durham

Formal NCDS Outreach Programs

- **Give Kids A Smile!** – nationwide dental education, awareness and treatment day.
 - Began in 2003
 - 22,457 volunteers
 - 190,000+ children
 - \$14 million in care



Formal NCDS Outreach Programs

- **Dental Lifeline Network** – dental care for elderly and medically fragile people.
 - Began in 2008
 - 336 dentists
 - 920 patients
 - \$4.4 million



Dental Lifeline
Network®

More than Dentistry. *Life*.®

New Member of the Dental Team

- **Community Dental Health Coordinator** – provides **community-based prevention, care coordination, and patient navigation** to connect people who typically do not receive care from a dentist in underserved rural, urban, and native American Communities.
- First program in NC began last month at Alamance Community College.

Questions or Comments

Thank you for your kind attention.