

Dental Lifeline Network • Florida

April 2019



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Dr. Andrew Taylor
(Pensacola), volunteer since
2008, with his DDS patient
and staff.

**For more information,
to Donate or Volunteer
go to:**

DentalLifeline.org

Or Contact
Megan Manor,
DDS Coordinator:
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or 850.577.1466

In 1997, the Florida Dental Association partnered with Dental Lifeline Network • Florida in developing a Donated Dental Services (DDS) program to help people with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile and had no other access to dental care. The Florida DDS program is part of a network in which services are available in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. DLN volunteers provided over \$26 million in donated treatment in fiscal year 2017-2018. **FL dentists and labs have donated over \$8.8 million worth of comprehensive treatment for 1,917 vulnerable people since inception! Thank you!**

DLN launched a new volunteer recruitment campaign in November to help veterans with special needs and attract more volunteers. With the help of the American Dental Association, FDA and other membership organizations, promotions and emails were sent to dentists asking them to volunteer for “[Will You See One Vet](#),” a moniker DLN adopted for Veteran services. The campaign attracted over 400 new volunteers nationally including many in FL, and these new volunteers are being linked with veteran applicants with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile.

Although partial state funding was received in FY 2017-18, it was not extended to the current fiscal year. Thank you to FDA for its efforts in advocating to have the appropriation restored in FY2019-20! Thank you also to the FDA Foundation for its grant to DLN for the FL DDS Program!

Donated Dental Services (DDS) Program Totals		
Below is a snapshot of the first 3-quarters of this fiscal year and last year's final statistics.		
	7/1/18-3/31/19	7/1/17-6/30/18
Donated Treatment Value ¹	\$579,017	\$703,994
Donated Lab Value	\$60,223	\$72,127
Average Value of Treatment ²	\$5,779	\$5,354
Patients Served ³	183	234
Patients on Wait-list	487	513
Participating Dentists	479	455
Participating Labs in FL	221	215
Participating Labs outside FL	6	13

¹Donated treatment value includes donated lab value.

²Average value is based on patients that have completed comprehensive treatment; does not include active patients, or patients who continue to receive ongoing care from their DDS volunteer.

³Number of Patients Served includes: patients who completed their treatment plan; patients who received services but treatment plan is not yet complete; and patients who are linked with a volunteer but haven't yet received treatment.

The DDS program restores the oral health and often transforms the lives of the patients we serve, like Wesley, 37 who lives in Charlotte County. He was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and quickly began chemotherapy. Wesley needed a bone marrow transplant but had to get dental clearance first. Unfortunately, the chemotherapy treatment impacted his dental health and his teeth were in terrible condition. He had several cavities and his wisdom teeth were impacted. Wesley could not afford the dental treatment he desperately needed even though he had applied for Social Security Disability Insurance, he had not been approved. His family was surviving on food stamps and his wife's meager income. Fortunately, Wesley was referred to the DDS program, and he was linked with a general dentist and oral surgeon who agreed to help. Thanks to these generous volunteers, Wesley received \$3,166 in donated treatment that enabled him to get dental clearance! He wrote to express his true appreciation for this life-changing gift.

“Everything you have done for me to get the dental clearance for my bone marrow transplant is beyond amazing. You took an impossible task and time frame and made it possible. I am grateful for Dr. O. and Dr. L. but none of this would have been possible without you and Donated Dental Services. Thank you!”

Helping People With Disabilities or Who Are Elderly or Medically Fragile