



The President's Perspective

April 2011

“HCC partners with NC MOM to bring dental services to 435 clients in Roanoke Valley”

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President, Halifax Community College*

North Carolina Missions of Mercy (NC MOM) partnered with Halifax Community College (HCC) to hold a free adult dental clinic at The Centre on March 25-26, 2011. NC MOM is an outreach program of the N.C. Dental Society. This was the second year that HCC hosted the event.

The clinic, sponsored by HCC, the North Carolina Dental Health Fund, The Daily Herald and the Union Mission of Roanoke Rapids, treated 435 patients over a two-day period and offered dental cleanings, restorations, and extractions. An estimated \$221,913 worth of free dental care was performed and, at last count, more than 300 volunteers served during the clinic. In 2010, the clinic assisted 339 patients and provided an estimated \$155,000 worth of free dental care.

Because of our partnership with NC MOM for the past two years, we have provided **774 clients with \$376,913** dollars of free dental care. We really want to thank our partners and our entire college community for their efforts and work that has enabled us to provide this service to the citizens of the Roanoke Valley region.

This year's NC MOM clinic also featured a new state-of-the-art mobile X-ray van. The van, made possible by a grant from The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, was equipped with the latest digital X-ray technology that improves diagnostics and speeds the treatment process. Each client was given a free digital X-ray examination.

The goals of NC MOM are to provide free dental care to as many needy persons within North Carolina as possible and to involve as much of the dental community of the state in the treatment of the needy as possible. Currently, NC MOM has enough equipment to set up a full dental clinic including x-ray, sterilization and all instrumentation and supplies. Volunteers are dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants and scores of general volunteers from all areas of the state.

NC MOM is entirely a grassroots effort, dependent on an all volunteer staff, members of which donate their time and talents with funding from grants and donations. Since its beginning in 2003, the program has received national and statewide recognition.

Anyone whose family income does not exceed 200 percent of the National Poverty Guidelines is eligible for free treatment. Proof of income is required and may include a pay stub, utility bill, employer note, or evidence of unemployment. In the case where no documented evidence of income is available, an oral interview at registration is used to determine eligibility.

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From the President's Perspective, I believe our free dental clinic offered through NC MOM provides an invaluable service to the Roanoke Valley. I have talked with many citizens who were so thankful that this clinic came back to the area for a second year. We even conducted an exit survey with patients to see where we could improve the event. Those surveys revealed that people really appreciated the opportunity to have free dental work performed and several commented that they were satisfied with their experience. We hope to continue to bring this much-needed service back to the campus in the future.

I want to add a final note of appreciation to all of the sponsors, donors, dental professionals, community volunteers, and college and university students, faculty and staff for all of the help and support we received in bringing the clinic back to HCC. We also want to thank the media outlets that helped us spread the word about the clinic. We could not have experienced the success that we did without everyone's support. On Sunday, April 10, we will run a "Thank You" ad in The Daily Herald expressing our appreciation to all who helped in this endeavor. We sincerely appreciate the support!

Feel free to send me an e-mail message at president@halifaxcc.edu with your thoughts and ideas. Also, to learn about our current programs—stop by campus, call us at (252) 536-HCC1 (4221), or visit us online at www.halifaxcc.edu.

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