



### **For Immediate Release**

## **7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONNECTICUT MISSION OF MERCY FREE DENTAL CLINIC COMING TO HARTFORD APRIL 25-26**

*More than 2,200 patients expected to be treated for free during two-day clinic at XL Center in Downtown Hartford*

**HARTFORD – January 28, 2014** – The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic will be held at the XL Center in Hartford on Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26, 2014. The clinic, also known as CTMOM Free Dental Clinic, will provide a full range of dental services to more than 2,200 people during the two-days and will feature 136 dental chairs and more than 1,500 volunteers.

The clinic is held annually in Connecticut and made possible by the efforts of the Connecticut Foundation for Dental Outreach (CFDO). It is free of charge for all who attend and provides a full range of dental services to patients of all ages on a first-come, first-served basis, including dental and general health screenings, x-rays, cleanings, fillings, extractions, oral surgery and limited tooth replacement and root canal therapy.

This year, CTMOM is partnering with the Connecticut Health Foundation to provide dental care and oral health education to pregnant patients. “We are pleased to be offering dental care to pregnant patients in a special area of the clinic,” said Josephine Bicknell, CTMOM Program Director. “Dental care is critical during and after pregnancy for both the mother and child and we are proud to offer this care during the event.”

Established in 2008, the Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic has treated 10,951 patients and provided \$6,108,040 in free dental services to patients. Past clinics were held in Tolland (2008), New Haven (2009), Middletown (2010), Waterbury (2011), Danbury (2012) and Bridgeport (2013). Not only is this the first time CTMOM is coming to Hartford for a two-day clinic, but it also plans on returning to the capitol city every other year, according to CTMOM Co-Chair Dr. Bruce Tandy.

According to the CFDO, there are roughly 700,000 people in Connecticut lacking proper access to dental care, and as the economy continues to struggle, those numbers may very well increase.

“It is our role to help as many people as possible, get them the dental care they need and at least, alleviate their dental pain,” said Dr. Tandy. “First and foremost, CTMOM is a charitable event and not a solution to this problem. “We’re happy to come to Hartford this year and in the future, but we need a long term answer. Connecticut’s leaders – political, business, health and not-for-profit communities – need to come together to make it happen.”

The CTMOM Free Dental Clinic is seeking volunteers – dental and medical professionals and community volunteers of all types are needed. To learn more about what type of help is needed and to register as a volunteer please visit [www.ctmom.org](http://www.ctmom.org). Registration is open until March 23.

### Contact

Dan Tapper  
Sullivan & LeShane Public Relations, Inc.  
860-560-0001 (office)  
860-573-4236 (mobile)  
[dtapper@ctpr.com](mailto:dtapper@ctpr.com)