



### **For Immediate Release**

## **8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONNECTICUT MISSION OF MERCY FREE DENTAL CLINIC COMING TO DANBURY MARCH 20-21**

*More than 2,200 patients expected to be treated for free during two-day clinic at the O'Neill Center at Western Connecticut State University.*

**HARTFORD – February 2, 2015** – The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic will be held at the O'Neill Center on the Westside Campus of Western Connecticut State University in Danbury on Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21, 2015. 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 for those who are in need of dental care and can't afford the cost of services. CTMOM 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. CTMOM is returning to Danbury for a second time thanks in part to The Robert G. and Marguerite M. Derx Foundation, which was instrumental in bringing CTMOM to Danbury in 2012.

For the second year, CTMOM will provide dental care and oral health education to pregnant patients. "We are pleased to be offering dental care to pregnant patients again this year," said Dr. Robert Schreiber, CTMOM Consultant and CFDO President. "Dental care is critical throughout pregnancy for both the mother and child, and we are proud that we have the capabilities to offer this important service during our clinic."

Established in 2008, the Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic in collaboration with the Connecticut State Dental Association, has treated 13,246 patients and provided \$7,686,102 in free dental services to patients. Past clinics were held in Tolland (2008), New Haven (2009), Middletown (2010), Waterbury (2011), Danbury (2012), Bridgeport (2013) and Hartford (2014).

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. Bruce Tandy, CTMOM Co-Chair. “First and foremost, CTMOM is a charitable event and not a solution to this problem. “We’re happy to come to Danbury this year, but we need a long-term answer. Connecticut’s leaders – political, business, health and not-for-profit communities need to make this a priority and 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). Volunteer registration closes February 20.

The Clinic would not be possible without the generous support of its donors. To date, major donors to the CTMOM Free Dental Clinic include the following: The Robert G. and Marguerite M. Derx Foundation; Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving; Connecticut State Dental Association; Wal-Mart Foundation; Maximilian E. & Marion O. Hoffman Foundation, Inc.; Webster Bank; Newman’s Own Foundation; Fortress Insurance Company; Vernon D. and Florence E. Roosa Family Foundation Memorial Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving; DentaQuest Foundation.

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