



For Immediate Release

Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman and Legislative Leaders Join the CT Foundation for Dental Outreach to Announce the 8th Annual CT Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic Coming To Danbury on March 20-21

*More Than 2,200 Patients Expected To Be Treated For Free During Two-Day Clinic
O'Neill Center at Western Connecticut State University*

HARTFORD –March 4, 2015 Today, Lieutenant Governor Nancy Wyman, Legislative Leaders, Major Sponsors, members of the Connecticut Foundation for Dental Outreach (CFDO) and the Connecticut State Dental Association were all on hand to announce the 8th Annual Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic. The 2015 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 Mission of Mercy dental clinic is one of Connecticut's most important volunteer healthcare initiatives," said Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman. "I applaud the thousands of dentists, dental professionals, and volunteers for their commitment and dedication to Connecticut's underserved. They are making life better for so many Connecticut residents."

"Far too many people do not have access to regular professional dental care," said Senate President Martin M. Looney. "I want to thank the Mission of Mercy volunteers for providing this vital care."

The clinic is held annually in Connecticut and made possible by the efforts of the 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. Services include dental and general health screenings, x-rays, cleanings, fillings, extractions, oral surgery and limited tooth replacement and root canal. 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.

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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. Bruce Tandy, Co-Chair CTMOM. “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.”

According to the CFDO, many Connecticut citizens are lacking proper access to dental care, and as the economy continues to struggle; those numbers may 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. Bob Schreiber, CFDO President. “First and foremost, CTMOM is a charitable event and not a solution to this problem. “We are happy to once again come to Danbury, 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 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, Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation, Inc., Maximilian E. & Marion O. Hoffman Foundation, Inc., Wal-Mart Foundation, Fortress Insurance Company, Newman's Own Foundation, Webster Bank, Cigna, Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation, Inc., DentaQuest Foundation, Stanley D. and Hinda N. Fisher Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Vernon D. and Florence E. Roosa Family Foundation at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. CTMOM Major In-kind Sponsors include: Benco Dental Supply, Connecticut State Dental Association, Dart Dental Supply, Integrity Systems and Solutions, LLC., Murray Kaizer Dental Lab, Patterson Dental Supply, Inc., Henry Schein Dental, Siracusa Moving & Storage and Western Connecticut State University and WFSB.

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About the Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental 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).

Media Contact

Mary Brennan Coursey
 Coursey & Company
 860-232-9600 (office)
 860-305-0476 (mobile)
 mary@courseyco.com