



For Immediate Release

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Mayor Luke Bronin and Coach Jim Calhoun Join the CT Foundation for Dental Outreach to Announce that the 9th Annual CT Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic is Returning to Hartford on September 16 & 17, 2016
More Than 2,200 Patients Expected to be Treated During the Two-Day Clinic at Hartford's XL Center

HARTFORD –July 20, 2016 -- Mayor Luke Bronin and Coach Jim Calhoun today joined members of the Connecticut Foundation for Dental Outreach (CFDO) and the Connecticut State Dental Association to announce that the 9th Annual Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic coming to Hartford. The 2016 clinic will be held at the XL Center on Friday, September 16 and Saturday, September 17, 2016. 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 146 dental chairs and more than 1,300 volunteers.

“The CTMOM Free Dental Clinic is one of Connecticut’s most important volunteer healthcare initiatives and I am proud to be part of this effort,” said Coach Jim Calhoun. “I applaud the thousands of dental and medical professionals, and general volunteers for their commitment and dedication to Connecticut’s underserved. They are making life better for so many Connecticut residents.”

“Too many kids and families in Hartford lack access to quality, affordable dental care,” said Mayor Bronin. “That’s why programs like this are so important, especially since research shows that gum disease is a major risk factor for heart disease, lung disease, and diabetes. I’m so thankful to the Connecticut Mission of Mercy volunteers and to the Connecticut Foundation for Dental Outreach for making this vital dental care available to Hartford families.”

The clinic is held annually in Connecticut and made possible by the efforts of the CFDO and its volunteers. 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 exams, xrays, cleanings, fillings, extractions, and limited root canals.

CTMOM Free Dental Clinic is returning to Hartford for a second time thanks to the support of the City and the Capitol Regional Development Authority. The event was previously held at the XL Center in 2014 and \$1,578,062 in free oral health care was provided to 2,295 patients.

According to the CFDO, many Connecticut citizens are lacking proper access to dental care, and as the economy continues to struggle, those numbers are increasing.

“It is our role to help as many people as possible, get them the dental care they need and to alleviate their dental pain,” said Dr. Bob Schreiber, CFDO President. “First and foremost, CTMOM is a charitable event and not a solution to the long-term problem of the lack of affordable dental care for the underserved and uninsured. We are happy to return to Hartford and have the support of Mayor Bronin and Coach Calhoun. We are also encouraging veterans to attend the clinic as dental care is often difficult for them to access.”

To date, major donors both monetary and in-kind, of the CTMOM Free Dental Clinic include: Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation, Inc., Integrity Systems and Solutions, LLC, Siracusa Moving & Storage, Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Connecticut State Dental Association, Henry Schein Dental, The Robert G. and Marguerite M. Derx Foundation, Wal-Mart Foundation, The James McManus Fund of the Hartford Dental Society, Inc., Cigna, Patterson Dental, Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation, Inc., Fortress Insurance Company, Nutmeg Foundation, Samuel Roskin Trust at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, and Webster Bank and WFSB. Individual and corporate donations and volunteers are still needed.

For additional information on the clinic including patient information, volunteer opportunities, contributions, or becoming a sponsor, visit www.ctmom.org.

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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 15,732 patients and provided \$9,635,395 in free dental services to patients. Past clinics were held in Tolland (2008), New Haven (2009), Middletown (2010), Waterbury (2011), Danbury (2012), Bridgeport (2013), Hartford (2014), Danbury (2015) and a “MiniMOM” in East Lyme (2015).