



For Immediate Release

The CT Foundation for Dental Outreach Announces the 14th Annual CT Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic is Coming Back To Danbury on March 20-21

2,000 Patients Expected to be Treated for Free During Two-Day Clinic at the O'Neill Center, Western Connecticut State University, West Side Campus, Danbury, CT.

Danbury, CT – February 24, 2020 The Connecticut Foundation for Dental Outreach (CFDO) announced today that the 14th 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, 2020. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. The clinic, also known as CTMOM, will provide a full range of dental services to as many as 2,000 people during the two-days and will feature 100 dental chairs and more than 700 volunteers.

"The CT Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic is a critically important volunteer healthcare initiative that's become a tradition in our state," said Governor Ned Lamont. "I applaud the hundreds of dental and medical professionals, and community volunteers for their commitment and dedication to Connecticut's underserved, uninsured and working poor who are improving the lives of so many Connecticut residents through this clinic."

Dr. John Clark, president of Western Connecticut State University, said the entire university community welcomes the clinic. "We are happy to act as host, and to give our students, faculty and staff the opportunity to participate and also to witness the dedication of other volunteers in this effort," Clark said. "Our mission, in addition to the academics we teach, is to help young people learn how to participate as citizens in a community. The dental clinic offers a wonderful learning experience."

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, limited partial dentures and root canals on front teeth. CTMOM is returning to Danbury for the third time thanks in part to Western Connecticut State University's generosity. They have graciously opened their doors to CTMOM in 2012, 2015 and now in 2020.

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According to the CFDO, many Connecticut citizens are struggling to afford basic dental care on top of everyday necessities; rent, food, clothing, transportation. In 2020, those numbers may increase.

“It is our role to help as many people as possible and get them the dental care they need, and at least alleviate their dental pain,” said Dr. Jonathan Knapp, a Bethel dentist and CFDO Board Member. “First and foremost, CTMOM is a charitable event and not a long-term solution to this problem. We are happy to come to Danbury again while continuing to work with Connecticut’s leaders; political, business, health and not-for-profit communities to make dental care a priority in public health services.”

The Clinic would not be possible without the generous support of its donors. To date, major donors for the CTMOM Free Dental Clinic include the following: Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation, Connecticut Health Educational Authority, Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Connecticut State Dental Association, Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation, Inc., The Robert G. and Marguerite M. Derx Foundation, BI Cares Foundation, Fortress Insurance Company, Webster Bank, Cigna, Stanley D. and Hinda N. Fisher Fund at Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, Herbert and Nell Singer Foundation, Benecare Dental Plans, Dr. Robert Fish, Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, Dr. Laurence Levy, Scott and Kathy Grummon, People’s United Community Foundation, Union Savings Bank, M & T Bank, Barrett Family Foundation, East Hampton Rotary.

CTMOM Major In-kind Sponsors include: Western Connecticut State University, Henry Schein Dental, Patterson Dental Supply, Inc., WFSB 3, Siracusa Moving & Storage Connecticut State Dental Association, Integrity Systems and Solutions, LLC., Astor Dental Laboratory, Benco Dental Supply, Dexis, Diversified Design Technologies, Inc., Gendex .

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About the Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic

Established in 2008, the Connecticut Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic has treated 20,345 patients and provided over \$13 million 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), Hartford (2016), New Haven (2017), Torrington (2018), and Willimantic (2019).

Media Contact

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