



Maya Angelou once said, *“People can often forget what you said, people forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”* The Maryland Foundation of Dentistry’s (MFD) mission is to facilitate pro bono dental care to improve oral health and maintain dental function for Maryland adults (18+) with intellectual, physical, or developmental disabilities who are unable to pay for their dental care. The MFD is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) formed in 1989 by caring dentists willing to help underserved Marylanders access dental care. For more than 30 years, the MFD has facilitated pro-bono dental treatment statewide, resulting in 90% of our patients enjoying good oral health. The MFD program operates statewide in all 24 counties including Baltimore City. It is important to note that MFD volunteer dental providers see MFD patients an average of seven times in their private dental offices. The MFD is unique in that our program is not a one-day, one-time clinic we accept applicants based on their disability and inability to pay for dental treatment and do not consider race, religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation, gender expression, or type of disability.

MFD patients receive the same quality dental labs used by their MFD volunteer dental providers’ paying patients. Additionally, MFD patients receive (at no cost) dental supplies and tools provided after dental appointments to ensure they are maintaining their dental care plan. Often, MFD patients have not been evaluated or treated by a dentist in years, and sometimes even decades. Since oral health has such an impact on general physical health, MFD patients’ health is improved tremendously by seeing an MFD volunteer dental provider. Some applicants are referred to the MFD program because their state of dental health is bad enough to restrict their treatment for cancer or organ transplant. Once they receive their treatment through the MFD program, they can go on to get treatment for cancer or be added to the organ transplant list, giving them a chance to receive medical treatments that can change their quality of life.

The MFD has received an \$8,000 grant from the Healthcare Initiative Foundation (HIF) as part of the FY22 Nonprofit Capacity Building Grant Cycle to provide access to pro bono dental care to Montgomery County residents who reside in historically underserved areas of Montgomery County over the next 12 months. This generous grant award will help the MFD, facilitate pro bono dental care to improve oral health and maintain dental function for #80 eligible Montgomery County residents with intellectual, physical, or developmental disabilities who are unable to pay for their dental care, who will be brought up to a good standard of dental care.

As of July 2022,\* the MFD reached a major milestone as our volunteer dental providers and volunteer laboratories have donated over \$25 million in services serving over 11,678 eligible Maryland residents throughout the state. In Montgomery County alone, the MFD has served over 702\* residents who have received over \$3,565,232 in donated dental care and \$185,283 in donated laboratory care totaling \$3,750,516 in donated care!

This time has been so challenging, and this incredible milestone would not have been possible without the whole-hearted effort of our incredible volunteer dental providers, volunteer laboratories, and grantors like the Healthcare Initiative Foundation, who have gone above and beyond especially throughout Covid-19, to ensure Maryland residents in need of dental care can access the dental care they need and deserve.

To learn more about the MFD visit: <https://mfd-dds.org/>

To learn more about becoming an MFD volunteer dental provider visit: <https://mfd-dds.org/volunteer>

To JOIN TODAY and become an MFD volunteer dental provider visit: <https://mfd-dds.org/join-us>

Follow the MFD on social media:

- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mfdsmiles1989/>
- Facebook: <https://tinyurl.com/enkh85jh>
- LinkedIn: <https://tinyurl.com/yf8dvunr>

If you need any additional information about the MFD program or would like to speak further please contact, Executive Director, Marissa Tisch, at [mtisch@mfdh.org](mailto:mtisch@mfdh.org) or 410-964-1944.

*\*The MFD program started collecting data in 1995.*