

ARKANSAS

DENTISTRY

2024 ARKANSAS MISSION OF MERCY

DISASTER RELIEF
EFFORTS

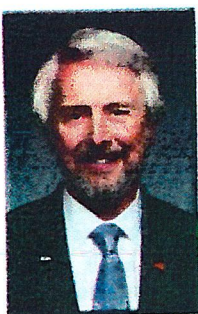
INTERNAL ROOT RESORPTION
CASE REPORT

ARKANSAS MISSION OF MERCY

2024 event provides \$1.3 million in free services to patients

TERRY FIDDLER, DDS

Executive Director, Arkansas Mission of Mercy



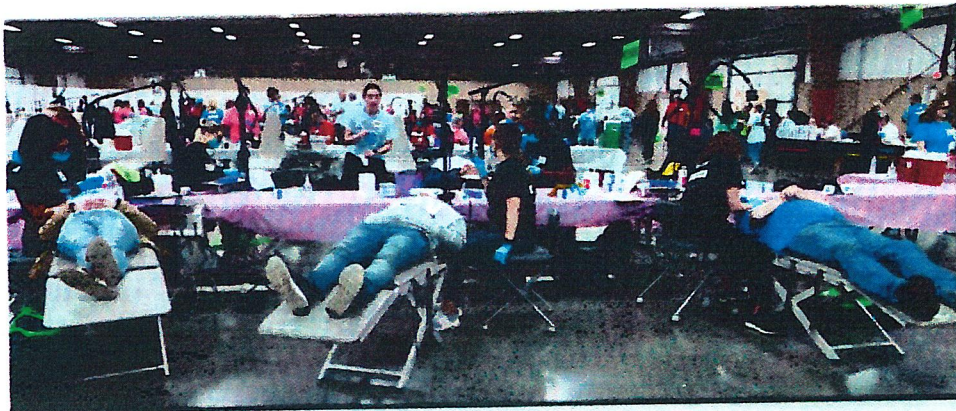
Anytime that we hold an ArMOM event, it is successful. It doesn't matter the number of volunteers, the number of patients, or the dollar amount of services, it is successful.

Sometimes our numbers are very large and sometimes they are not. My point is that OUR mission is to serve the under served!

As you know we missed three years due to COVID, but we have been back for two years. It is with a great hope that we are back to stay. We know that COVID is now endemic, but by its being less virulent and widespread, we can now take many preventative measures to ensure our continuance.

We had great numbers this year. We had *enough* volunteers. Notice I said enough. The bad side is we had a great need for 35 more dentists, especially restorative. We needed at least 30 more hygienists. We needed 40 more assistants.

We have made the permanent location in Conway because of the quality of the event center, the cost of the center, the buy in and cost savings from the city of Conway, and the central location in the state to save long drives by our professional volunteers. The GREAT point this year is that we had sooo many *young* dentists, hygienists, and assistants. The future of ArMOM!!



We must have renewable volunteers. All of our directors have been a part of this mission since it began 18 years ago. We still have the desire to help others, but it is easier when you have black or blond hair rather than gray or little to no hair.

Chuck Wood, Steve Kilpatrick, Kristi Golden, Mark Murphy, Candy Murphy, Jerry Friend, Leeann Moore, and Deanna Davis have been with us from the beginning. I am sure I may be missing some and I sincerely apology if it has happened. Steve has moved out of state and has fam-

ily obligations so he was unable to continue as Clinical Director this year. What an amazing tenure that he has had. Thank you so much. The over 25,000 patients that we have seen over the years would like to scream, "Thank you!" Dr. Kristi Golden took over his position (of course she did) plus others. It has always been said to give the job to a busy person. She qualifies.

The Arkansas Mission of Mercy is expensive to operate. We all know is that the Arkansas State Dental Association is a relatively small state group of dentists on a small budget. You can't have a dental mission without dental professionals and you can't have an event without funding. Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation has helped fund the mission since its inception in 2006, along with large sponsorships from Walmart and Tyson. The last five years have seen their organizations step up and be one of two of our PRESENTING SPONSORS along with Arkansas State Dental Association.

A special thanks to Billy Tarpley, ED, Ed Choate and now Kristin Merlot, the former and present CEOs of DDPAR. A great big thank you to Sharon Lanier, the

Director of the Foundation who continues to help us secure our funding.

Now the drumroll, if you please. The Arkansas Mission of Mercy saw 1,140 patients this year. We provided \$1.287 million in free dentistry with 660 volunteers. Our pediatric folks saw 264 children. We started at 2:30 in the morning and finished at 4:00 in the afternoon both days. That is absolutely awesome.

None, I repeat, *none* of the events that take place across the U.S., deliver so much dental services with so few volunteers. PLEASE, PLEASE put April 11-12, 2025 on your calendar for next year's Mission at the Conway Events Center.

As always a very special thanks to the men of Renewal Ranch for their continued support in setting up the event and breaking it down.

It would not happen without them. Again, a big thanks to your *Arkansas Dentistry* editor, Dr. Werner Schneider for inviting me to report on this wonderful Mission. GOD tells us to take care of others and that is what we do. Looking forward to seeing 35 more dentists, 30 more hygienists, and 40 more assistants next year in Conway. Thank you. **AD**

