



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U.P Friendly Smile Fund Makes a Healthy Smile More Affordable

NEGAUNEE, MICH., January 2, 2019 – Did you know that approximately 78% of Americans have had at least 1 cavity by the age of 17? Also, more than 1 in 4 (27%) adults in the United States has untreated tooth decay. According to the American Dental Association (ADA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), nearly half (about 46%) of all adults in America aged 30 years or older show signs of gum disease, and severe gum disease affects about 9% of adults. If any of these numbers relate to you or someone you love, the Superior Health Foundation (SHF) would like to turn that frown around.

The Marquette County Health Department (MCHD) and My Community Dental Centers (MCDC) has received a \$5,000 grant from the SHF for the Upper Peninsula MCDC Dental Centers in Marquette, Spalding and Engadine. This grant funds a new initiative, the U.P. Friendly Smile Fund, and will cover the cost of an initial exam, X-rays, and dental treatment plan for any uninsured U.P. adult who qualifies. Patients only need to verify their residency, income, and that they do not have dental insurance. This fund can also assist students attending an Upper Peninsula university or college during the school year.

“We want this fund to improve access for uninsured adults seeking dental care by reducing or eliminating the \$39 initial fee to establish a dental home for dental care and treatment,” stated Jerry Messana, Health Officer with the MCHD. “The U.P. Friendly Smile Fund will assist adults with no dental insurance and whose adjusted gross income is less than two-hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty level for the patient’s family size. The patient will be asked to contribute \$10 towards the cost; however, no patient will be turned away if they are unable to contribute.” Mr. Messana sees this as an opportunity for many uninsured adults to finally see a dentist and find out their individual dental needs.

The U.P. Friendly Smile Fund is available this January 2019 through the end of the year, or whenever the funds run out. If you or a loved one needs to see a dentist, please call MCDC’s toll-free patient registration number at 1-877-313-6232, and mention the U.P. Friendly Smile Fund when you register. The three U.P. MCDC locations are:

MCDC-Marquette
989 W. Washington Street, Suite 104
Marquette, MI 49855

MCDC-Spalding
16088 Balsam Lane (PO Box 220)
Spalding, MI 49886

MCDC-Engadine
W14034 Melville Street
Engadine, MI 49827

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Caption for Photo:

The Superior Health Foundation (SHF) recently presented the Marquette County Health Department (MCHD) and My Community Dental Centers (MCDC) with a \$5,000 Indigent Care Grant. Pictured from left to right: Sarah Johnson, MCDC Office Manager; Jim LaJoie, SHF Executive Director; Alison Ladd, DDS, MCDC Dentist; and JoLee Fredy, MCDC Dental Assistant. For more information, go to: www.mydental.org or www.mqthealth.org.

About My Community Dental Centers

Established in 2006, My Community Dental Centers Inc. is one of the largest non-profit 501(c)3 Dental Support Organizations in the United States. MCDC primarily serves patients covered through Medicaid, Healthy Kids Dental, MICHild, and Healthy Michigan Plan, and welcomes patients with private dental insurance. The organization is also pleased to offer My Dental Plan (MyDP) for patients without dental insurance, which provides reduced fees based on household income. Comprehensive dental care for the entire family, including exams, cleanings, fillings, tooth removal, and dentures are provided. Operating 33 dental centers throughout Michigan, with more than 100,000 unduplicated patients served in 2017, MCDC focuses on quality care that is customized for each patient and offered in a patient-centered atmosphere with exceptional care. www.mydental.org



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December 19, 2018

Pay To The Order Of My Community Dental Centers \$ 5,000⁰⁰

Range Bank
350 Iron St.
Negaunee, MI 49866

For Indigent Care Grant

Jim LaJoie