450 area veterans have reason to smile

Received complimentary dental care from 110 dentists and 600 volunteers in thanks for their service

Total value of charitable-care provided over two-day period was $500,400 or an average of $1,112 per veteran

Dallas – The results of the two-day veterans-only Texas Mission of Mercy (TMOM) event ended as a great success. Preliminary estimates show 450 veterans received dental care equating to an average of $1,112 per veteran or $500,000 in the total value of the care.

For many veterans, the care was invaluable: Area veterans were treated with services including basic, pain-relieving and preventive procedures such as dental cleanings, fillings, and extractions.

Nearly 90 percent of veterans living in Texas do not qualify for dental benefits, meaning most of the brave men and women who served in our military services must pay out of pocket for dental care. For many of our veterans living on a fixed income, dental care can be unaffordable.

Through a partnership with the Dallas-area Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and the Homeless Veterans Services of Dallas (HVSD), TMOM helped fill this gap by providing no-cost care at the event.

TMOM is sponsored by the Texas Dental Association Smiles Foundation (TDASF) and supported by the Texas Dental Association. Since 2001, TDASF has held 63 mission events throughout Texas, providing care to more than 32,000 patients.
About the Texas Dental Association Smiles Foundation
The Texas Dental Association Smiles Foundation (TDASF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public and profession about oral health and improving access to dental care for the citizens of Texas. Since 2001, Texas dentists have treated more than 33,000 patients and provided more than $25 million in charitable dental care through the organization. For every $1 donated, TDASF is able to provide $8 worth of care, and individual financial support is critical in helping us achieve our mission. For more information or to donate, please visit www.tdasf.org.

TDASF is the affiliated foundation of the Texas Dental Association. Chartered in 1871, the Texas Dental Association (TDA) is the third largest state dental association in the United States. The Association has more than 9,000 members and is comprised of 26 local component dental societies grouped into 4 divisions across the state of Texas.

# # #