



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 14, 2016

MEDIA CONTACT:  
Bill Noble for TMOM  
512-296-4651  
[Bnoble@noblestrategic.com](mailto:Bnoble@noblestrategic.com)

# 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.

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***Texas Mission of Provides Charitable Dental Care to 450 area veterans***

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***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](http://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.*

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