Dental Lifeline Network • Kansas

Kansas Donated Dental Services (DDS)

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KANSAS DONATED DENTAL SERVICES (DDS) PROGRAM

Semi-Annual Report

Activities from July 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025

Highlights

- **74** patients served and **$193,114** in treatment donated thus far
- **2** new volunteer dentists recruited

The DDS Program in Action

David, 67, is a Navy veteran who lives in Johnson County. He worked as an engineer for many years until he was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. After undergoing radiation treatment, he is in remission. Unfortunately the radiation caused significant damage to David's hips, requiring him to have hip replacement surgery through the VA.

Sadly, David's dental health was another challenge. He hadn't been to a dentist since 1998, and his dental health had deteriorated over the years. He was missing teeth and many remaining were broken and decayed.

Though David desperately needed help regaining his dental health, he was unable to afford treatment. He and his wife survive on his Social Security and his wife's modest wage working at a church. The couple's fixed income is nearly consumed by their basic monthly living expenses, leaving nothing left over for dental treatment. It seemed David had nowhere to turn for help.

Thankfully, three generous DDS volunteers came to David's aid. An oral surgeon extracted his remaining teeth under general anesthesia, and a general dentist and volunteer dental lab partnered to donate full upper and lower dentures. Thanks to these caring dental professionals, David received more than $13,000 in life-changing treatment. He wrote to express his sincere appreciation for this amazing gift:

"I'm smiling for the first time in years. Thank you so much for making all of this possible, as it's made my life so much better."

Program History

- Established in 1996 with the support of the Kansas Dental Association
- 4,430 total patients served since inception
- $16,679,062 in total care donated by volunteers
- Statewide Volunteer Network: 298 dentists and 45 labs

The DDS program helps individuals with disabilities or who are elderly or medically fragile and cannot afford or otherwise access treatment for severe dental conditions. As a result of their ages or disabilities, they cannot work and depend on government assistance for their health care. Historically, Medicare has not provided dental benefits and only recently introduced coverage for some medically necessary dental services that will help a

select group of recipients. And, while the Kansas Medicaid program offers many dental benefits for adults, patients often cannot locate dentists who accept Medicaid. Some people with disabilities or aged or medically fragile individuals who can work often earn too much to qualify for public aid but not enough to afford the extensive dental treatment they need. As a result, they suffer in agonizing pain from severe dental problems with nowhere to turn for help.

The Kansas DDS program is part of a national network that serves individuals in every state as well as D.C. Collectively, these programs aim to help 4,100 individuals access $12.5 million in services during the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

Accomplishments

Fiscal Year Goal: Help 135 people with disabilities or who are aged or medically fragile receive $450,000 worth of comprehensive dental treatment including $35,000 in laboratory appliances.

Six-Month Results: During the first half of the fiscal year, we served 74 patients and generated $193,114 in donated treatment (including $9,969 in laboratory fabrications) as follows:

- 10 patients completed their treatment plans and received $72,860 in donated care.
- 20 patients have not yet finished treatment yet have received $120,254 in care thus far.
- 44 patients have been referred to volunteer dentists but haven't yet finished any treatment services.

Each patient who completed treatment this year received an average of $7,286 worth of dental treatment; comprehensive care that illustrates the generosity of the volunteer dentists and labs.

Challenges

There continues to be less capacity for dentists to volunteer and often, we must refer applicants to several different volunteers before we find one who can assist. Consequently, treatment continues to progress slowly, and the average treatment plan is taking 17 months—far longer than in the past. Since most volunteers help just one DDS patient at a time, we do not refer another patient until they finish, which impacts the number of people we can help.

In addition, with a general increase in unsolicited phone calls and spam, many applicants and patients prefer not to answer phone calls, which often requires the DDS Coordinator to utilize multiple methods to contact them, further slowing down the process.

Applications

With 243 applicants on the wait list, we can accept new applications in many counites only from individuals who need dental care to qualify for life-saving medical treatment (i.e., medically fragile) and military veterans who qualify. Ninety-seven (97) such individuals applied for help during the first half of the fiscal year. The wait list includes people who applied this fiscal year as well as last fiscal year.

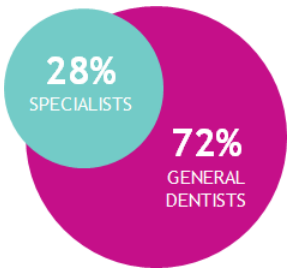
When the wait list gets too long, the staff must spend a significant amount of time responding to

requests for applications and to subsequent questions from applicants; time that instead could be spent referring people to dentists and coordinating services. The wait list is continually monitored to assess whether and where we can accept applications. Doing so helps the Case Manager/Coordinator process applications more efficiently so she has sufficient time to refer people to the volunteers. Currently, we are unable to accept applications in the following counties (with the exception of those individuals already mentioned): Allen, Brown, Butler, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Crawford, Dickenson, Elsworth, Ford, Franklin, Geary, Harvey, Jefferson, Kiowa, Labette, Leavenworth, Marion, Miami, Mitchell, Morris, Norton, Osage, Pawnee, Reno, Riley, Rooks, Russell, Saline, Sherman, Smith, Stafford, and Wilson.

Many recent applicants have dental insurance, and we ask them to exhaust their insurance coverage before utilizing services available through the DDS program. The Coordinator often must educate ineligible applicants on how to utilize their existing insurance benefits which can be a time-consuming process.

Volunteers

We are truly grateful to the **298 dentists** and **45 dental laboratories** that participate statewide. While it may seem as though we could serve 298 patients per year if each volunteer accepted one case annually, that is not realistic. Most volunteer dentists treat just one patient at a time and due to the comprehensive nature of the treatment provided, they typically care for one patient annually. Also, many DDS patients require dentures, but not all volunteer dentists want to help with cases involving removable prosthetics. Further, of the 298 volunteer dentists, 84 are specialists and 214 are general dentists who treat patients and identify the need for specialist and laboratory support.



Many dental laboratories also volunteer for the Kansas DDS program. Along with the 45 labs physically located in Kansas, five out-of-state labs volunteered to help Kansas DDS patients during the first half of the fiscal year. We truly appreciate the generous efforts of all our volunteers.

During the first half of the fiscal year, two new dentists total signed up to volunteer. At the same time, two existing volunteers retired and another three chose to end their participation. The volunteers are well-utilized and we detail our efforts to recruit more below.

Recruitment

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Oral Health promotes DDS in its newsletters periodically. Our Board of Directors, which includes dental professionals and the executive director of the Kansas Dental Association, continued its volunteer recruitment efforts through attendance at local dental society meetings and reaching out to colleagues. In addition, the DDS Coordinator has been working to recruit new volunteers individually, which can be challenging and time-consuming.

In partnership with Henry Schein, we sent “Gratitude Kits” containing useful dental supplies to top Kansas volunteer dentists to recognize their extensive donations in July 2025.

Our national affiliate has ongoing volunteer recruitment efforts, including the following nationwide activities:

- **Retention:** We continue to make progress on an ongoing retention initiative. Our Manager of Volunteer Stewardship reaches out each quarter to dentists who have retired or left the DDS program in recent months. For those who retired, she works to identify who bought the practice and how to recruit the new owners to volunteer. If the new owners are associated with one of our DSO partners, we let them know they are authorized to volunteer. We continue to contact any volunteers who were too busy to participate or who chose to stop participating for other reasons to try to re-engage them.

- **Recognition:** We continue to recognize top DDS volunteers with awards at individual state dental meetings and the National Association of Dental Laboratories, and we continue to award plaques to as many volunteers as possible each summer.

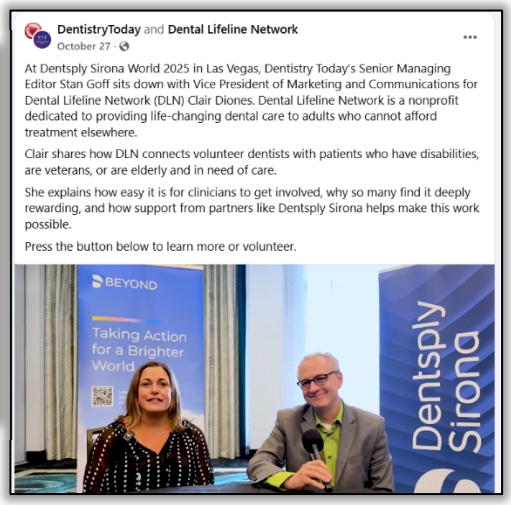
- **Dental Service Organization (DSO) Outreach:** DLN continues to develop and cultivate more partnerships with DSOs nationwide. In August, we attended the annual conference for Dykema, a national law firm with deep ties within the DSO community. One of Dykema's leaders, Mr. Eric White, serves on DLN's national Board of Directors. Dykema connected us with another organization to do a prize giveaway to drive traffic to our table. Dykema also included a card from DLN in the room bags for attendees and agreed to send targeted messaging to encourage support of DLN. We recently have refocused our efforts to pursue deeper engagement with those DSO's who are already partners with DLN. Our goal is to convert more DSO members into volunteers so we are able to help more vulnerable people access the dental treatment they need.

- **Conferences:** DLN staff continue to actively promote the organization and the DDS program at several dental conferences and dental association annual meetings nationwide. Attendance at these events is part of DLN's strategic plan to improve brand awareness, increase volunteer recruitment, and establish key partnerships and connections across various sectors of the dental industry.



- **Articles and Podcasts:** DLN staff continue to promote the DDS program through a variety of podcasts and articles in national publications. In addition, several state dental associations promote DLN and the DDS program in their member newsletters or journals. Our Vice President of Marketing & Communications, Ms. Clair Diones, recently met with Dentistry Today during the Dentsply Sirona World conference in October. In December, our CEO, Ms. Lynda Ricketson was a guest on the Mommy Dentists in Business podcast.





Staffing

The Case Manager/Coordinator determines applicant eligibility, links patients with nearby volunteer dentists, monitors patient progress and arranges laboratory services and the help of specialists as necessary. Most importantly, she resolves any problems that may interfere with care and ensures all parties have a positive experience. Ms. Anita Garbo continues to coordinate services full-time.

Financial Information

While the volunteer dentists and many of the dental laboratories donate their services, we must raise funds to support their efforts, such as the cost of the DDS Case Manager/Coordinator. Other expenses include lab reimbursements when we cannot find labs to donate, office supplies, etc.

We are grateful to receive financial support from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. In addition, the following foundations and organizations have provided support for services in specific counties:

- The Taylor S. and Patti Harding Abernathy Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee.
- The Lewis H. Humphreys Charitable Trust, Bank of America, N.A., Trustee
- The George H. Nettleton Home, Inc.
- Topeka Community Foundation

Attachments

Attached is a program summary report as well as a financial report for the first half of the fiscal year. Also included are reports showing treatment donated by city and disability.

Kansas Donated Dental Services (DDS) Program

Semi-Annual Report of Services

	7/1-12/31
PATIENTS	
# Deceased or Otherwise Withdrew	0
# of Patients Served:	74
# Who Completed Treatment Plan	10
# Who Received Services but Treatment Plan Not Yet Complete	20
# Referred to a Volunteer but Haven't Yet Finished Treatment	44
APPLICANTS	
# Received	97
# Not Eligible	74
# of Applications pending (as of 12/31/25)	243
VOLUNTEERS	
# of Volunteer Dentists	298
# involved with patients served	91
# of Volunteer Labs in Kansas	45
# involved with patients served	17
# of Contributing Labs outside of Kansas	5
FINANCIAL	
Value of Care to Patients Served	$193,114
Average Value of Treatment/Completed Case	$7,286
Value of Donated Lab Services	$9,969[1]
Value of Paid Lab Services	$618
Operating Costs	$56,401
Ratio/Donated Treatment per Dollar of Operating Costs	$3.42

TOTALS SINCE START OF PROJECT	
Total Patients Treated	4,430
Total Value of Care to Patients Treated	$16,679,062

1 – Also included in Value of Care to Patients Served.

Treatment by City

7/1/2025 ***Thru*** 12/31/2025

City	*# of Transactions*	*Treatment Value*
Abilene	1	$6,069.00
Arkansas City	1	$3,396.00
Bonner Springs	1	$5,950.00
Cawker City	1	$2,321.00
Coffeyville	1	$8,976.00
Great Bend	1	$10,191.50
Iola	1	$12,894.00
Johnson City	1	$4,125.00
Lawrence	4	$24,408.00
Manhattan	1	$287.00
Mayetta	1	$1,842.00
Merriam	1	$12,135.00
Olathe	5	$28,782.00
Paola	2	$3,751.00
Perry	1	$10,185.00
Shawnee Mission	1	$4,964.00
Topeka	4	$21,193.00
Wichita	5	$31,643.50

Summary

Total Patients Treated 30 ***Total Treatment*** $193,113.00

Treatment by Disability

7/1/2025 ***Thru*** 12/31/2025

Disability	*# of Transactions*	*Treatment Value*
Current Cancer Patient	2	$7,911.00
Circulatory Disorders	3	$23,728.00
Diabetes	3	$12,517.50
Elderly	1	$6,345.00
Heart Disease	4	$13,437.00
Auto-immune Diseases	1	$2,081.00
Kidney/Renal Diseases	1	$6,375.00
Liver Diseases	1	$6,440.00
Muscle Disorders	1	$1,842.00
None	1	$7,089.00
Musculoskeletal Disorders	9	$72,797.50
Serious and Persistent Mental	5	$30,229.00
Traumatic Brain Injury	1	$2,321.00

Summary

Total Patients Treated 30 ***Total Treatment*** $193,113.00

Kansas
Statement of Activities
Year-to-Date December 31, 2025

	Actual to-Date	Budget YTD	Variance YTD	Budget FY26
Support and Revenue:				
Grants - Government	70,000	70,000	0	70,000
Contributions - Foundations/Assoc	25,800	21,400	4,400	42,800
Miscellaneous Contributions	682	500	182	1,000
Net Assets - Released from Donor Restriction*	10,363	8,500	1,863	8,500
Sub Total	**106,845**	**100,400**	**6,445**	**122,300**
Donated Treatment Services	183,144	207,500	(24,356)	415,000
Donated Laboratory Services	9,970	17,500	(7,530)	35,000
Sub Total	**193,114**	**225,000**	**(31,886)**	**450,000**
Total Support and Revenue	**299,959**	**325,400**	**(25,441)**	**572,300**
Expenditures:				
Salaries - Coordinators	22,549	22,754	205	45,508
Payroll Taxes	1,762	2,218	455	4,435
Payroll Benefits	6,864	7,025	161	14,050
Program Support	11,523	11,826	303	23,652
Auditing	1,873	1,365	(508)	1,365
Consulting Fees	357	359	2	718
Marketing	404	3,750	3,346	7,500
Insurance-Liability	1,061	1,242	180	2,483
Lab Reimbursements	618	1,000	382	2,000
Occupancy	1,000	1,200	200	2,400
Equipment Purchases	0	175	175	350
Software	0	0	0	325
Office Expenses	190	230	40	459
Postage/Shipping	139	137	(2)	274
Printing/Media	31	48	17	95
Technical/Admin. Support Svcs.	7,682	7,884	202	15,768
Telephone/Internet	382	402	20	804
Training, Dues, Subscriptions	0	202	202	404
Travel/Meetings	0	50	50	100
Volunteer Recognition	(33)	475	508	950
Sub Total	**56,401**	**62,340**	**5,939**	**123,641**
Donated Treatment Services	183,144	207,500	24,356	415,000
Donated Laboratory Services	9,970	17,500	7,530	35,000
Sub Total	**193,114**	**225,000**	**31,886**	**450,000**
Total Expenditures	**249,515**	**287,340**	**37,825**	**573,641**

Unaudited