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MDA Foundation: 2024 Promises Great Things from the MDA Foundation

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By Anne Berquist
Foundation Director of Development

2024 Promises Great Things from the MDA Foundation

As 2024 dawns, I am excited about the direction of the MDA Foundation and how it is helping aspiring dental and hygiene students and the community at large. In late November, the MDA Foundation Board of Directors awarded 12 scholarships totaling \$31,000 to an amazing group of candidates from the largest field of applicants in years. Thanks to our donors' generosity, we were able to more than double the value of the scholarships awarded! Watch this space to learn more about the recipients and why they received help from your Foundation.

You'll also have a chance to meet some of the scholarship recipients during the MDA Foundation's Sparkling Smiles Celebration, Wednesday April 17, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the East Lansing Marriott Hotel. This special event recognizes and thanks MDA Foundation donors, and acknowledges grant and scholarship recipients. Share in the stories from the beneficiaries of the Foundation's good works and hear the stories of people who help provide care. Be sure you register for the Sparkling Smiles Celebration by sending an email to foundation@michigandental.org. It's one of Annual Session's heart-warming highlights.

The MDA Foundation's biggest effort to provide access to care will occur in June, when we hold the first Mission of Mercy of the 2020s at the Dort Financial Center in Flint. During the two days of treatment offered at the MOM, we hope to provide essential dental care to as many as 2,000 people. Volunteers will set up the dental clinic on Thursday, June 13. Patients will begin lining up for care that evening. Anyone in line from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., June 14 and 15 will undergo dental triage to determine their most urgent need and receive appropriate treatment. Participants can return to the line to receive further care if they wish to do so.

Please volunteer your time and skills to deliver care to those in need. Ask your dental team to volunteer, too. There are plenty of roles for family members as well, from

helping set up or tear down to being patient escorts, line monitors, and much more. Sign up for the days and hours that fit your schedule. The joy and personal reward you will feel from participating in the MOM is truly amazing. I urge you to visit foundation.michigandental.org and complete the MOM volunteer form when it is posted Feb. 12. If you wish to financially support the MOM, there's a donation page on our website to make it easy to pledge funds. Scan the QR code at right to donate.



SCAN ME

The MDA Foundation is continuing to raise funds for the Karen Burgess Scholarship Endowment, which will award one substantial scholarship to a dental student from the University of Michigan or the University of Detroit Mercy dental schools, on alternating years. Karen is the former executive director of the MDA who died suddenly in July. She recognized that tomorrow's dentists represent the long-term future of organized dentistry, and that these young dentists hail from different demographic groups than their predecessors. This endowed scholarship is a fitting legacy for Karen. Please donate to support the scholarship if you have yet to do so. There's a link on the home page at foundation.michigandental.org to facilitate your pledge.

Finally, the MDA Foundation golf outing will return this year. The golf outing is a significant fundraiser for the Foundation and it's a fun day on a lovely golf course as well. There will be plenty of networking opportunities and prizes. Watch for more details about the golf outing as they take shape.

I hope you're as excited as I am about what 2024 holds for the MDA Foundation and its beneficiaries. MDA members are vital to enabling the MDA Foundation to help meet the oral health needs of Michigan residents who have limited access to care, and to helping future dentists and hygienists attain their educational goals. Thank you for all you do to support the MDA Foundation. ●