

Date: February 5, 2004

To: House Committee on Health and Human Services

From: Dr. Jon Tilton, DDS
Dr. Jeff Stasch, DDS

RE: KANSAS MISSION OF MERCY UPDATE

Chairman Morrison and members of the Committee, thank you for providing us the opportunity to discuss the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation's Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM) dental charity project. One year ago KMOM was just an idea that was forwarded to the Kansas Dental Association by Drs. Jon Tilton (Wichita) and Jeff Stasch (Garden City), and today it is the largest dental charity clinic in the world - in terms of volunteers, clinic size, and the number of patients served.

Thanks again to legislators on both sides of the aisle and legislators to help the Kansas Dental Association pass a bill last year to amend the Charitable Healthcare Provider Act to limit the liability of dental professionals who volunteer at KMOM projects.

Today we are going to discuss the some different aspects of KMOM: where we have been, where we are, and where we are going as KMOM evolves. We have a seven to eight minute video form the Kansas City project in August that we will be showing and we understand that you also have access online to the video that was produced after the Garden City project in February 2003 that we encourage you to review at your leisure. You may have heard some of these facts on the House floor today. As you heard on the House floor today:

the Kansas Mission of Mercy dental charity project was organized by the Kansas Dental Association through the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation with funds from dentists, private foundations and other private sources, and

574 total volunteers, including 81 dentists, 51 dental hygienists, and 85 dental assistants provided \$554,000 in dental care to 1,734 patients at the Finney County Fairgrounds in Garden City, Kansas on February 28-March 2, 2003, and

863 total volunteers, including 207 dentists, 128 dental hygienists, and 153 dental assistants provided \$758,455 in dental care to 2,659 patients at the Kansas Speedway in Kansas City, Kansas on August 22-24, 2003, and

the Kansas Mission of Mercy dental charity project will continue in the future and currently is scheduled to be held on the campus of Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas on April 30-May 2, 2004 and in Salina, Kansas on February 16-18, 2005.

Two KMOM projects have now been held - one in Garden City and one in Kansas City - serving a total 4,400 people and providing \$1.3 million in dental care.

The KDA's Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation has invested heavily in infrastructure to continue conducting KMOM projects throughout the state and has purchased 24 mobile dental chairs, 24 mobile dental lights 12 dental delivery units, as well as numerous sterilizers, dental instruments, chairs, and other supplies. The KDA also owns two 12-foot trailers and a semi trailer to store and transport equipment and supplies.

In all, some 1,400 volunteers have supported KMOM.

KMOM is supported entirely by private contributions and non-government foundation grants. KMOM's service to cost ratio is approximately 9 to 1.

The Kansas Dental Hygienist's Association and Kansas Dental Assistants Association support KMOM.

Thanks again for your time, we'll be happy to answer any questions about KMOM or the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation at this time.