

**From:** Oral Health Kansas [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org]  
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**Subject:** 2010 Annual Excellence in Oral Health Award Winners



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## CONFERENCE UPDATES!

Watch for podcasts of the 2010 Oral Health Kansas Conference coming soon on the OHK website!

Copies of the session handouts are still available [CLICK HERE](#) to view them.

## 2010 Excellence in Oral Health Award Winners

### Outstanding Dental Hygienist Award

This Dental Hygienist has been practicing in Atchison since 1997. In 2004 she became one of the first Extended Care Permit Dental Hygienists in the state in order to address the unmet dental needs of children in the area. Atchison County ranks as the lowest county in Kansas for "healthy behaviors" and is marked by over 80% of the school age children on free and reduced school lunches.

Using old military "portable dental equipment" from the Atchison Hospital, this Hygienist set up the Open Wide Dental Hygiene program. She debuted it at the Atchison Elementary School in November 2006. The program was a great success, and parents expressed their thanks and desire to have the program expanded. When the old equipment gave out, she began writing grants to replace it.

This Hygienist is the sole employee of Open Wide. She obtains consents from each student's parents annually, checks to be sure the children's Medicaid coverage is current, schedules visits, and provides the hygiene services. She also demonstrates correct brushing and flossing techniques and

## THANKS!

Again thank you to everyone who made the conference a great success.

We hope that you enjoyed the quality of presentations.

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discusses good nutrition. In the evenings, she gets back online and submits claims through her sponsoring dentist for reimbursement for the services provided.

She provides services to more than 200 children each school year. She said the days she works in the schools are exhausting, but they are her absolute favorite, rewarding days!

Oral Health Kansas is pleased to honor Christen Lacey as the 2010 Outstanding Dental Hygienist Award winner!

### **Outstanding Oral Health Volunteer Award**

This volunteer began volunteering at the Marian Clinic Dental in 1990. Her smile, friendly demeanor, compassion and commitment to providing outstanding work help to provide healthier lives for people who are uninsured.

She is always willing to do any task assigned to her with a smile on her face. She is friendly, outgoing, and enthusiastic.

Her service for the Clinic makes her an invaluable volunteer. In 2009 Marian Clinic Dental had more than 7500 patient visits. The Dental Clinic is a very busy and challenging environment. This volunteer helped by preparing application packets, pulling patient charts, filing, and many other clerical duties. With her assistance, the dental staff can focus by providing increased dental services. She always goes the extra mile to help all staff. Her compassion is obvious by the excellent volunteer work she provides.

In addition to volunteering at Marian Clinic Dental, she also volunteers for the Great Overland Station, Topeka Civic Theatre, Topeka Performing Arts Center, St. Francis, KNI, and takes minutes for the Topeka Priest meetings. She meets the definition of an amazing volunteer.

Oral Health Kansas is pleased to honor Louise Bennett as the 2010 Outstanding Oral Health Volunteer Award winner.

### **Outstanding Organization Award**

In 2009 the Dodge City Rotary Club began hearing stories about four-year-old children needing hospitalization for tooth removal and high school nurses reporting "holes" in students' teeth, with no place to refer them. When it came time for the Rotary Club to choose a project, it chose to help establish a

dental clinic, using local volunteer dentists to meet the oral health needs of the community. Bill Hammond was the Dodge City Rotary Club president who led the club in choosing this ambitious project. Bill is the Executive Director of Business and Operations for the Dodge City Public Schools and an active community volunteer.

Under Bill's leadership, the project took shape. Six local dentists volunteered to donate services each month; a former dental office was offered rent-free for the first two years; and dental equipment was donated. Bill also started pulling in expertise from across the state to offer advice on clinic development and sustainability. Local stakeholders formed the Ford County Oral Health Coalition.

Bill then took on what many advised would be one of the greatest challenges - finding the money to get started. That is when he called the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund in Hutchinson. Bill was invited to submit an application, and the project was awarded a \$75,000 grant. At this point the clinic concept changed from one that depended totally on volunteer dental providers to one that combined paid staff with volunteers. United Methodist Western Kansas Mexican-American Ministries stepped forward to make the clinic an expansion of its dental clinic in Garden City and assume management. At the center of all the planning and local and state stakeholders were Bill Hammond and the Dodge City Rotary Club.

A three-operator safety-net clinic opened in Dodge City in September 2010. More than 200 messages from people seeking appointments were left on the clinic phone in just one weekend shortly after it opened.

Bill has transitioned out of the Rotary presidency, turning it over to local dentist Richard Stein. As he transitioned out of his formal leadership role, Bill stressed that the clinic had expanded beyond its beginnings as a Rotary project and had become a way for the community to give for the future.

Oral Health Kansas is pleased to honor the Dodge City Rotary Club under the leadership of Bill Hammond as the 2010 Outstanding Organization Award winner.

## **Outstanding Community Leader Award**

In 2011 the Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation will mount its 10<sup>th</sup> Kansas Mission of Mercy. Through the KMOMs over the last decade, thousands of Kansans have received sorely needed dental care, and thousands of Kansas dentists, hygienists and community volunteers have had the chance to make a difference in the lives of people who need dental care. An estimated \$5.5 million dollars in care has been provided through the KMOMs.

All of this is possible because of this year's Outstanding Community Leader. Along with Dr. Jeff Stasch, this year's community leader founded the Kansas Mission of Mercy. Our community leader is considered a superman among his fellow dentists. He not only co-founded KMOM, he has participated in all nine events. He still serves on the KMOM advisory committee and has volunteered more than 1000 hours just on KMOM projects across the state.

He is committed to achieving excellence in oral health for all Kansans, and he particularly focuses on people who are underserved and people with disabilities. Volunteering and "giving back" have been important to our community leader. He currently serves on no less than nine boards of directors for local community organizations, state advocacy organizations and national foundations.

He has been honored by his peers with Dentist of the Year awards from the Wichita District Dental Society and the KDA. He has received the Janet Sevier Gilbreath special project recognition award and the R.A. Jiggs Nelson Quality of Life Award and the Rotary Club of East Wichita "Service Above Self" Award.

Not only has he volunteered countless hours in our home state, but he also has helped develop and grow Mission of Mercy projects in Nebraska, Arkansas, Iowa and Colorado. This community leader has shown his dedication to improving oral health in everything he does.

Oral Health Kansas is pleased to honor Dr. Jon Tilton as the

2010 Outstanding Community Leader Award winner!

### **Outstanding Dentist Award**

The dentist who is being honored this year was nominated by three separate individuals. This dentist, who has been practicing since 1975, has been a sponsoring dentist for Extended Care Permit Dental Hygienists. He initiated the Olathe School Sealant program and remains an active participant. He participates annually in a free community program for people who cannot afford dental care. He and his family have been leading a medical/dental mission team to the same village in central Mexico for over 20 years. Since they began providing yearly care to the residents of the area, they have seen the needs go from mostly extractions to mostly cleaning and preventive care, due to the ongoing care and education the team has provided.

A school nurse in Olathe reports that this dentist has been a very active partner in providing dental care for district students who have been unable to obtain private care. In the 1990s he opened his office to each of the Title One schools, and students were brought to him for check-ups and sealants at no cost.

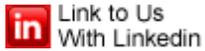
Another school nurse reported that anytime she found a student who was unable to afford care, she could count on this dentist to help. She said, "I apologize that I do not have any statistics regarding the number of students and families (he) has improved dental health over the fifteen years I have known him. But even if I had specific numbers, there is no way statistics could begin to measure and explain the tremendous value and outstanding impact (he) has had on our community."

Oral Health Kansas is pleased to honor Dr. Nevin Waters as the 2010 Outstanding Dentist Award winner!

**Congratulations to all the**

## Excellence in Oral Health Award Winners!

If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly Wednesday Update please send an email to [jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org](mailto:jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org)



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