



MOBILE DENTAL PROGRAM RECEIVES RECOGNITION, CASH GRANT

The Mobile Dental Program at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center was awarded the VNA Foundation Anne M. Davis Mobile Health Award for delivering much-needed care into the community

CHICAGO, IL – September 16, 2015 –

The Mobile Dental Program of Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center received a special award from Chicago's VNA Foundation for its outstanding work delivering free and low-cost dental services—via a 39-foot van—directly to underserved individuals throughout the city of Chicago.

The Anne M. Davis Mobile Health Award, named in honor of a longstanding VNA volunteer and board member, recognizes a Foundation grantee that uses mobile health services in a particularly innovative, effective and impactful way.

The Mobile Dental Program started in 1999 to help the many Chicagoans who find it difficult to get dental care. Patients include senior citizens living on fixed incomes, low-income families unable to afford dental care for their children, and men and women with disabilities and people who are homeless. Poor dental health can deprive people of the confidence they need to go on job interviews, affect school performance and even lead to serious medical problems.

The program works with 19 community partners—including schools, senior residences, homeless shelters and mental health agencies—scheduling monthly visits at their sites to provide care for their clients. In 2014, the program served 571 patients through 1,358 visits. The program provided access to dental care to 221 patients receiving public assistance and 350 individuals who did not have insurance.

Virtually any service provided at the hospital's Dental Clinic can be performed in the fully equipped office on wheels, which is staffed by experienced dentists, dental assistants and dentists enrolled in the General Dental Residency program of Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. Services offered on the mobile dental van range from simple preventive care and x-rays to a full range of restorative procedures, endodontics, and oral surgery.

Patients often express their appreciation for the program's services; for instance, Steve W. shared, "The dental van really provided me with the help I needed. They explained what I need to do to keep my teeth. They are very nice people and professional as well."

"Finding low-cost dental care continues to be a major hole in our current health care system," said Dr. Amy Martin, director of the Mobile Dental Program. "We see firsthand every day the importance of the work we do, and the life-changing effects it has. We hope through the generous support of our funders like VNA Foundation that we can continue to keep providing this much-needed service to those in need."

Mobile Health

"One of Mrs. Davis' particular interests was healthcare for the underserved as provided by mobile health units," said Rob DiLeonardi, Executive Director of the VNA Foundation of Chicago. "She felt strongly that VNA's current work should always reflect, as much as possible, its rich heritage as an agency bringing services right into the homes and communities of those in need. She said more than once that teams of healthcare providers who deliver service via mobile health vans are perhaps the closest link to the horse-drawn carriages and traveling nurses used by the original Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago. For this reason, it was the decision of the VNA board that the best way to honor Mrs. Davis's four decades of service was to create an award to honor this particular method of healthcare delivery. There were many strong candidates to receive the Davis Award this year, but The Mobile Dental Program at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, which has for many years worked to address the oral health needs of underserved persons, was the unanimous choice for this distinction."

About Advocate Illinois Masonic Center

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center is a 408-bed hospital in Chicago with a Level I trauma center and a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the highest designations awarded by the state of Illinois. It offers comprehensive inpatient services, including medical, surgical, obstetrics and pediatric care, as well as a full breadth of outpatient services. A recipient of numerous awards for quality and clinical excellence, Illinois Masonic was ranked one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014 by Truven Health Analytics, as well as named a recipient of the organization's Everest Award for National Benchmarks in 2010 and 2013. The medical center has also been named a Leader in the Human Rights Campaign's Healthcare Equality Index for the past six years, as well as one of the Chicago region's Best Hospitals by U.S. News & World Report for the past two years. Illinois Masonic Medical Center is part of Advocate Health Care, a 2014 Truven Health Analytics Top 15 U.S. health care system for quality and clinical performance and the largest provider of health care services in Illinois. For more on Illinois Masonic Medical Center and its Dentistry Department programs, please visit www.advocatehealth.com/immc/programs.

About the VNA Foundation

VNA Foundation was founded in 1889 as the Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago, an organization that employed its own nurses and other health professionals to provide health care to the underprivileged. Among its founders was pioneering social activist and Nobel Prize winner Jane Addams.

Since 1995, however, the VNA Foundation has not provided direct nursing services. Instead, VNA has operated exclusively as a grantmaking foundation, giving financial support to nonprofit organizations offering home- and community-based care to the medically underserved. In FY 2015, the VNA Foundation awarded 63 grants amounting to more than \$2.28 million. Recipients of the grants include a variety of agencies providing healthcare and health services to the working poor, the homeless, and the disenfranchised. For more information on the VNA Foundation, please visit www.vnafoundation.net.

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PHOTO CAPTION

From Left to Right: Leo Clark, Driver; Nohora Hernandez, Dental Assistant; Omar Abarca, Dental Assistant and Driver; Amy Martin, DDS, Director of The Mobile Dental Program; and M. Catherine Ryan, Chair of the VNA Foundation Board of Directors at the VNA Foundation Luncheon, September 10, 2015.