

Missouri Dental Association Foundation

Dr. Darren Mahaffey, Chair, Springfield
Dr. Robert Renger, Vice Chair, Joplin
Dr. Jeremy Bowen, Secretary-Treasurer, Independence
Dr. Lynne Barbour, Director, Kahoka
Dr. James Fox, Director, Cape Girardeau
Dr. Emily Taylor, Director, Rolla
Dr. Kirk Opdahl, Director, Independence
Dr. Elwood Rice, Director, Mexico
Dr. Danielle Riordan, Director, St. Peters
Dr. Timothy Taylor, Director, St. Joseph
Dr. Rob Tait, Ex-officio, MDA Immediate Past President
Vicki Wilbers, Ex-Officio, MDA Executive Director
Paul Roberts, MDA Foundation & Outreach Director

The MDA Foundation (MDAF) is the charitable arm of the MDA that works to create better oral health for Missourians through educational programs, access-to-care initiatives, and community collaborations. Its vision is "Improving Missouri Smiles."

Officers and Board Members: The MDAF board had three expiring terms this year: Drs. Jim Fox, Kirk Opdahl, and Danielle Riordan. Drs. Opdahl and Riordan have agreed to serve an additional term. Dr. Fox will rotate off the Board. The MDA Board of Trustees will officially elect the MDAF Board at its November 5 meeting. Due to officer term limits, the MDAF board elected a new slate of officers, contingent upon the MDA Board's election of these individuals: Dr. Darren Mahaffey, Chair; Dr. Kirk Opdahl, Vice Chair; and, Dr. Jeremy Bowen, Secretary-Treasurer. Additionally, Drs. Emily Hahn, Caitlin Rosemann and Chloe Stuck have expressed interest in serving on the Board. They were endorsed by the Foundation and await final approval from the MDA Board at its November 5 meeting. No other addition or deletion was made to the Board. If you have an interest in serving on the MDAF Board, we have positions available. Contact Paul Roberts at the MDA Executive Office.

Scholarships: Education is a primary focus for the MDAF and as such, the long-standing Dental Scholarship Program expanded in 2022. This year for the 2022-2023 academic year, the MDAF awarded six \$5,000 dental scholarships to students who are more likely to stay in Missouri after graduation. Scholarship eligibility requires all applicants to have been a resident of Missouri for a minimum of five years and be a graduate from a Missouri high school. This year,

17 eligible applications were received from both UMKC School of Dentistry and the ATSU Missouri School of Dentistry and Oral Health. The Foundation awarded scholarships to the following well qualified students:

- Emily Bahadoorsingh (Ozark High, Ozark)
- Chandler Hill (Liberty North, Liberty)
- Seth Hofeins (Rolla High, Rolla)
- Victoria Jones (Kickapoo, Springfield)
- Kiefer Schmidt (Helias, Jefferson City)
- Matt Wahle (DeSmet, St Louis)

Since 1999, the MDAF has awarded \$333,750 in dental and dental hygiene scholarships to students in Missouri. The MDAF Board and staff continue to work very hard to promote the scholarship program. Applications will be available in December 2022 for the 2023-2024 academic year. Additionally, the MDAF Board allocates a maximum of \$1,000 in scholarship funds to support Missouri residents who seek certification in the Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) program currently offered online. Moving forward, the MDAF will determine application and award requirements if they administer the funds. All applicants will need to be an MDA associate member. No applications were received this past year.

Missouri Mission of Mercy (MOMOM): Increasing awareness of access to care issues is a primary goal of the MDAF, and MOMOM has become the main vehicle for addressing this issue. The inaugural MOMOM was held in Springfield, September 2011. Since then, clinics have been in Cape Girardeau, St. Louis, Columbia, Independence, Joplin, Kirksville, and St. Joseph.

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After COVID-19 shut down all access to care events in 2020 and 2021, MOMOM returned this past July 15-16, 2022 at Chaifetz Arena in St Louis. Co-Chairs Drs. John G'Sell, Dean Telthorst and Claire Williams led the local effort which was more challenging than usual in a post pandemic environment. The team rose to the occasion and during the clinic days we saw 656 volunteers including 191 dentists provide treatment to 857 total patients with a total value of \$850,666. Both patients and providers reported a happy return to MOMOM. More information and several inspiring videos can be found at MOMOM.org.

Between the nine total MOMOM clinics, 12,311 patients have received treatment totaling \$7,981,804 in value. More than 8,200 total volunteers have given their time to make the clinics successful.

The MDAF Board is evaluating the MOMOM program's future format and frequency. While the clinic is a big boost to many people in need and a unique and inspiring gathering for the dental community, the administration of the event is costly and consumes critical and limited resources of the MDA team when the profession is addressing many other critical issues. Future possibilities may include partnering to help existing smaller clinics address backlog, developing a statewide volunteer directory that allows dentist members to meet the access need and volunteer when where, and how they are most comfortable and considering a longer pause between traditional MOMOMs to give staff, volunteers, and donors time to regroup. This is an evolving plan and members will be informed of developments.

Supplies & Brochure Donations: The MDAF continues to support various projects and programs by donating oral health supplies and education brochures to schools and non-profits doing oral health education efforts. The MDAF attempts to honor all requests for donations, but places special emphasis on programs for low income or underserved groups that may not have access to supplies and brochures through other means. Through September 2022, 32 requests had been filled. Contact Paul Roberts for information or an application for supplies and brochure donations.

MDAF Disaster Assistance Fund: Following the 2011 Joplin tornado, MDAF established a special disaster fund. There has been no disaster relief requested in Missouri this year. Law requires that we keep a fund balance for future disasters; the current balance is \$246.

MDAF Funding through MDA Dues

Statements: The largest source of MDAF revenue continues to be through annual MDA dues statements. A \$150 donation to the Foundation was a voluntary option included on the 2022 MDA dues statements, from which the Foundation raised approximately \$32,530. To help the MDAF continue existing programs and develop new ones, we urge you to remember the MDAF when paying your 2023 dues. Thank you in advance for your support.

Memorial & In Honor Gifts: A great way to give to the MDAF while remembering friends or loved ones who have passed is through a *Memorial Contribution*. The MDAF also offers the opportunity to recognize a birthday, anniversary, or special accomplishment through an *In Honor Gift* to the Foundation. The MDAF will send an acknowledgement to the person being honored or to the family of those being remembered. You can give at modental.org/foundation.

Endowment: The MDAF has established an endowment with an initial amount of \$75,000. The endowment is another resource for donors to ensure the long-term financial health of the MDAF and to allow for memorial gifts. To learn more about how you can participate, please contact Denise Lehmen at the MDA.

Connect4Cash Fundraiser

The fifth annual "Connect4Cash" fundraiser had a new showcase at the first ever Connect4Success Conference at Margaritaville Resort. It raised \$9,490. This elimination raffle counted down to the grand-prize winner with many cash prizes and vendor-donated gifts along the way for those eliminated. Interest in this event continues to grow, so watch for how you can play in 2023. Congratulations to the \$1,700 grand prize winner, Dr. David Suchman, Independence. Thanks to the generosity of all who bought tickets.

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Miscellaneous Donations: You need not wait for your dues statement, a fundraiser, or a solicitation in your mailbox. Many members and organizations periodically donate to the MDAF, some monthly. This is greatly needed and appreciated. At the writing of this report, MDAF has received \$1,855 in miscellaneous donations. If you would like to donate, contact Paul Roberts at the MDA or download a donation form at modental.org/foundation.

Report completed 9/21/22.