



Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Dental Clinic

Johns, James, and Wadmalaw Islands, South Carolina

Program Overview

Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Dental Clinic provides free comprehensive dental care and oral health education to participants who lack insurance or the means to pay for services. Our Lady of Mercy operates as a nonprofit and supports self-sufficiency and self-worth in the community through education, wellness, and outreach services.

Program History and Development



Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach was established in 1989 to provide needed services to residents in the Sea Islands area of South Carolina. The dental program began operation in 1999 for one day a week in a small trailer on the organization's property. After launching a successful capital campaign, the Wellness Center was built in 2008 and dental services are now provided at the Center four days a week, with an emergency dental clinic open once a week. The dental clinic initially provided only restorative services and extractions, but now offers preventive care, restorative care, oral health education, crowns, and root canals in certain situations.

Program Sustainability

- In fiscal year 2015, Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Dental Clinic received funding from Blue Cross Blue Shield, the Medical University of South Carolina, Primary Health Care, Coastal Community Foundation, American Dental Association, Maximus Foundation, and individual donations.
- Funding for the dental clinic is split between grants (17%) and individual donations (83%).
- The Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy provided initial funding for the program.
- The annual budget of this program is \$464,930.
- The dental clinic is staffed by one Wellness Center director, one dentist, two dental assistants, various support staff, around 30 volunteer dentists, and student volunteers. The entire organization is governed by an 18-member board of directors.

Program Impact

- In fiscal year 2015, Our Lady of Mercy provided 13,125 dental procedures to 1,550 individuals, over 200 of whom were older adults. In total, the dental care provided in fiscal year 2015 was worth over \$1.3 million.
- Our Lady of Mercy emergency dental clinic provides dental procedures to about 10 individuals per week.
- A 2013 internal study by Our Lady of Mercy discovered that the market value of a dental visit in 2012-2013 was \$277, compared to a cost of around \$700 without insurance. Therefore, this dental clinic saves both the clients and the local Emergency Department thousands of dollars annually.
- Clients of this program are surveyed twice a year to gauge client satisfaction, educational outcomes, pain alleviation, and to gather comments and suggestions. These evaluation surveys have demonstrated improved health practices, as measured by a 77 percent increase in better tooth brushing techniques among individuals who received care at Our Lady of Mercy, and an 88 percent increase in knowledge of dental disease among all clients.
- This program serves as a learning center for dental and dental hygiene students at the Medical University of South Carolina and Trident Technical College.
- Other dental clinics in the area have contacted this program for technical assistance in setting up their own program.

Program Contact Information

Program Website: <http://www.olmoutreach.org/>



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Program Features

Note: A checked box below indicates an existing program feature.

Age	Service Delivery Model	Dental and Oral Health Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0-17 (Children and Youth) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18-60 (Adult) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60+ (Older Adult)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dental clinic model (e.g. permanent setting) <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile-portable model <input type="checkbox"/> Eligibility and enrollment model (e.g. referrals, care coordination) <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual model (e.g. telehealth) <input type="checkbox"/> Event-based model <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach and education model	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emergency services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Screenings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cleanings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fluoride varnish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sealants <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X-rays <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comprehensive services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fillings <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scaling/root planing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extractions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oral surgery <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Root canals <input type="checkbox"/> Dentures, partials, relines, repairs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Crowns <input type="checkbox"/> Bridges <input type="checkbox"/> Orthodontics
Specific Populations	Staffing	Other Program Services
<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless individuals <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with physical disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with specific or complex medical conditions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals with low income <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Individuals with no dental insurance <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals with Medicaid <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Refugees/immigrants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dentist <input type="checkbox"/> Dental hygienist <input type="checkbox"/> Dental therapist <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dental assistant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dental/dental hygiene students <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing staff <input type="checkbox"/> Community health workers <input type="checkbox"/> Non-dental clinical staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-clinical staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Referrals to dental and oral health services <input type="checkbox"/> Care coordination/care management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient education <input type="checkbox"/> Caregiver education <input type="checkbox"/> Provider education <input type="checkbox"/> Advocacy/coalition
Geography	Payment for Care	Integration with Services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Urban	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicaid <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No charge to client <input type="checkbox"/> Sliding fee scale <input type="checkbox"/> Out of pocket <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial dental insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical services <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral health services <input type="checkbox"/> Vision services <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy services <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation services <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Translation services <input type="checkbox"/> Nutrition services
Service Delivery Setting	Program Funding	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital <input type="checkbox"/> Dental school <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community/safety net clinic <input type="checkbox"/> Private dental office <input type="checkbox"/> Long-term care facility <input type="checkbox"/> Senior center/community center <input type="checkbox"/> Private residence <input type="checkbox"/> Fairgrounds/stadium/parking lot <input type="checkbox"/> Church <input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Public housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Foundation/organization grant <input type="checkbox"/> Public funding (e.g. local, state, federal) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private donations (e.g. individuals, businesses)	

This profile was prepared using publicly available information. Date of last update: March 2016