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/
# Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Dental Clinic
## Johns, James, and Wadmalaw Islands, South Carolina

### Program Features

#### Age
- ☒ 0-17 (Children and Youth)
- ☒ 18-60 (Adult)
- ☒ 60+ (Older Adult)

#### Specific Populations
- ☐ Homeless individuals
- ☐ Individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities
- ☒ Individuals with physical disabilities
- ☐ Individuals with specific or complex medical conditions
- ☒ Individuals with low income
- ☒ Individuals with no dental insurance
- ☐ Individuals with Medicaid
- ☐ Veterans
- ☒ Refugees/immigrants

#### Geography
- ☒ Rural
- ☐ Urban

#### Service Delivery Setting
- ☐ Hospital
- ☐ Dental school
- ☒ Community/safety net clinic
- ☐ Private dental office
- ☐ Long-term care facility
- ☐ Senior center/community center
- ☐ Private residence
- ☐ Fairgrounds/stadium/parking lot
- ☐ Church
- ☐ School
- ☐ Homeless shelter
- ☐ Public housing

#### Service Delivery Model
- ☒ Dental clinic model (e.g. permanent setting)
- ☐ Mobile-portable model
- ☐ Eligibility and enrollment model (e.g. referrals, care coordination)
- ☐ Virtual model (e.g. telehealth)
- ☐ Event-based model
- ☒ Outreach and education model

#### Dental and Oral Health Services
- ☒ Emergency services
- ☒ Basic services
- ☐ Screenings
- ☐ Cleanings
- ☒ Fluoride varnish
- ☐ Sealants
- ☐ X-rays
- ☒ Comprehensive services
  - ☒ Fillings
  - ☒ Scaling/root planing
  - ☒ Extractions
  - ☒ Oral surgery
  - ☒ Root canals
  - ☐ Dentures, partials, relines, repairs
  - ☒ Crowns
  - ☐ Bridges
  - ☐ Orthodontics

#### Staffing
- ☒ Dentist
- ☐ Dental hygienist
- ☐ Dental therapist
- ☒ Dental assistant
- ☒ Dental/dental hygiene students
- ☐ Nursing staff
- ☐ Community health workers
- ☐ Non-dental clinical staff
- ☒ Non-clinical staff

#### Payment for Care
- ☐ Medicaid
- ☒ No charge to client
- ☐ Sliding fee scale
- ☐ Out of pocket
- ☐ Commercial dental insurance

#### Program Funding
- ☒ Foundation/organization grant
- ☐ Public funding (e.g. local, state, federal)
- ☒ Private donations (e.g. individuals, businesses)

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