



METROPOLITAN DENVER
DENTAL SOCIETY

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Local dentists recognized for outstanding community service

DENVER, Colo. — On Thursday, May 20, 2004 the Metropolitan Denver Dental Society (MDDS) honored local dentists who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer efforts and/or charitable services to those in need, as identified through the **MDDS Community Service Recognition Awards Program**. The 2004 awards program recognized three individuals for making major contributions to patients with special needs and the underserved in both the Denver and world communities and one individual for making major contributions toward dental advocacy. The awards were presented to the following dentists at a special ceremony held during the MDDS Annual Meeting at the Rolling Hills Country Club in Golden.

Dr. Thomas A. Bonbright, a Denver-based general dentist, received the **2004 Outstanding Service to Patients with Special Needs Award** for his dedication to the Colorado Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped. Dr. Bonbright was one of the first dentists to step forward and volunteer for the program when it was started in 1985. He has since donated \$60,454 in treatment to 24 disabled people, many of whom are too difficult for most dentists to treat.

Dr. Brett H. Kessler, a Denver-based general dentist, was presented with the **2004 Outstanding Service to the Underserved Award**. Since the summer of 2000,

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Dr. Kessler has provided free dental work to dozens of Sobriety House clients with serious dental problems resulting from addiction. The Sobriety House is Colorado's oldest substance abuse treatment program, established in 1967.

Dr. Scott S. Johnson, a general dentist practicing in Littleton, received the **2004 Outstanding Service to the World Community Award** in honor of his dedicated service in organizing and participating in dental missions to Guatemala, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Peru and Honduras for over 10 years in conjunction with the Cheery Creek Rotary Club. To date, he has treated over 2,000 patients, delivering more than \$2 million of free, highly skilled dental services.

Ms. Felicia L. Diamond, executive director of the Howard Dental Center, received the **2004 Outstanding Contribution to Dental Advocacy Award**. The Howard Dental Center treats men, women and children who are living with HIV or AIDS. Under the direction of Ms. Diamond, the Howard Dental Center increased their patient services to provide comprehensive care. While federal funding was decreased, Ms. Diamond doubled the agency income through grants and contributions. Thanks to Ms. Diamond's dedication to the Howard Dental Center, it continues to set standards for non-profit dental clinics across the country.

The Metropolitan Denver Dental Society is a 107-year-old organization committed to improving the standard of dental care for the Denver community. The Society, a component of the American Dental Association, acts as the unified voice to advance public awareness and dental education for the benefit of its members and the public.

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