



METROPOLITAN DENVER
DENTAL SOCIETY

Contact: Michelle Cunningham,
pr@mddsdentist.com
(303) 488-9700, ext. 3270
Cell: (303) 919-4585
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Domestic Violence Dental Care Program community and volunteer recognition

DENVER, Colo. — The Metro Denver Dental Society's Domestic Violence Dental Care Program (DVDCP) received the **Center for Work Education and Employment (CWEE) 2006 Silver Flame Partner of the Year Award**. This award was created by CWEE in recognition of the collaborative initiatives within the Denver community that help achieve their mission of providing realistic programs to help low-income single parents and families develop and expand the skills and confidence necessary to obtain continuous, meaningful employment and career advancement. Both CWEE and the DVDCP work toward long-term solutions to poverty including securing employment, enabling individuals to achieve self-sufficiency and ending dependency on welfare.

This is the second award the Domestic Violence Dental Care program has received since its inception. In 2004, the program received a national honor, the American Society of Association Executives' Award of Excellence. The program strives to improve the oral health of qualifying survivors of domestic violence by providing free dental care through 113 Metro Denver Dental Society member volunteer dentists. It is our hope that by fixing these smiles and restoring oral health -- mental, emotional, social and economic well being will be enhanced and confidence restored.

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Since 2002, over \$213,000 of comprehensive dental services have been donated by metro area dentists to 39 patients. The goals of the DVDCP could not be achieved without these volunteers. On May 11, 2006, the Metro Denver Dental Foundation recognized **Brian Furgason, DDS**, a Lakewood-based general dentist, and **Paul Wagenaar, DDS**, a Centennial-based general dentist, with the **Metro Denver Dental Foundation Award of Excellence** for their significant contributions of dental services and care to the program. Special recognition was also given to the following metro area dental laboratories for their donation of time, services and materials to repair the mouths of deserving patients: **Gnathodontics, Ltd., Peebles Prosthetics and Perry & Young Dental Laboratory.**

Established in 2002, the DVDCP is a community service project of Metropolitan Denver Dental Society (MDDS) member dentists that offers cost-free dental care to qualifying disadvantaged survivors of domestic violence in Denver in an effort to restore oral health and assist in recovery. The program is supported by the Metropolitan Denver Dental Foundation, established in June 2005, to advance awareness and education for improved oral health and to enhance access to dental care for all populations served by MDDS members.

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