



METROPOLITAN DENVER
DENTAL SOCIETY

Connections For Our Profession

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PRESS RELEASE
DATE: May 11, 2007

Local individuals recognized for outstanding community service in dentistry

DENVER, Colo. — On Thursday, May 10, 2007, the Metropolitan Denver Dental Society (MDDS) honored local individuals who have given the gift of hope, health and dental care to those in need, as identified through the **MDDS Community Service Recognition Awards Program**. The 2007 awards program recognized four individuals for making major contributions to dental advocacy and to dental patients with special needs and the underserved in both the Denver and world communities. All award recipients were selected by a panel of dentists who serve as members of the MDDS Community Access to Care Committee. The awards were presented to the following dentists at a ceremony held during the MDDS 110th Annual Meeting at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

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*Ms. Terri L. Gilpin
Executive Director*

Randall S. Wise, DDS, a Lakewood-based general dentist, received the **2007 Outstanding Service to Patients with Special Needs Award**. He was recognized for his commitment to providing cost-free dentistry to disabled and aged Coloradans through the Colorado Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped's Donated Dental Services (DDS) program. A volunteer for the CFDH program since 1978, Dr. Wise's efforts have improved the quality of life for dozens of individuals suffering from seriously neglected dental problems.

Lawrence J. Purcell, DDS, a retired general dentist residing in Littleton, received the **2007 Outstanding Service to the Underserved Award**. He was recognized for

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his dedicated service in providing free and low-cost dental services to a variety of underserved populations. Dr. Purcell has an extensive 40-year history of volunteerism, providing treatment to uninsured and low-income families at the Inner City Health Center since 2004, volunteering for Kids In Need of Dentistry (KIND) for 25 years and rendering care to Colorado Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped patients for ten years.

Paula K. Coffee, DDS, a Parker-based general dentist, received the **2007 Outstanding Service to the World Community Award**. Dr. Coffee has served the underprivileged in third world countries, providing dental services since 1983. Dr. Coffee made her first trip to the Dominican Republic in 1983 as a dental student with the Institute for Latin American Concern (ILAC). Over the years, Dr. Coffee has made multiple overseas trips and has spent up to eight weeks at a time providing dental care, working under extreme conditions, such as working with no running water or electricity. Additionally, Dr. Coffee has been responsible for sending thousands of dollars worth of dental supplies overseas.

Dr. Stephanie Clements, former 9NEWS medical reporter, received the **2007 Outstanding Contributions to Dental Advocacy Award**. She was recognized for her accuracy in reporting on complex dental procedures and implications and for educating tens of thousands of 9NEWS viewers about dental issues while demonstrating responsibility and thoughtfulness to both patients and providers.

The Metropolitan Denver Dental Society is a 110-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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