



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Grant funding provides oral hygiene kits for infants and toddlers

SAINT PAUL, MINN. – Community Dental Care receives \$1,560 through a grant from the MAXIMUS Foundation in support of its newest initiative, the *Minnesota Cavity Free Kids* pilot project. Grant funding will purchase oral hygiene supplies for families in need and include a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, educational take-home materials and a toy.

*Minnesota Cavity Free Kids* is an extension of Community Dental Care's Program to Improve Community Oral Health (PICOH), which provides oral health kits and preventive education to thousands of underserved children and pregnant mothers annually. Last year, the program provided in-clinic services to over 5,900 children and pregnant mothers and outreach education to over 9,700 individuals. PICOH is recognized nationally by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and results show that the program is making a sustainable impact in childhood caries (cavities) reduction. *Minnesota Cavity Free Kids* offers targeted strategies for a vulnerable population, children ages newborn through 2 years old.

"The MAXIMUS Foundation is proud to present Community Dental Care with a grant in honor of its commitment to improving the lives of those it serves in the community," said John Boyer, MAXIMUS Foundation Chairman. "Through its innovative services and solutions, Community Dental Care's values continue to align with those of the MAXIMUS Foundation – helping disadvantaged populations while supporting individuals' and families' pursuit of self-sufficiency and improved health care outcomes. On behalf of the MAXIMUS Foundation, I am so grateful for Community Dental Care's dedicated work."

The pilot project is designed around the belief that children (and their parents) need consistent reinforcement of good oral health practices during their early years to positively affect their health throughout their lives. The staff promotes this long-term impact through strategies such as one-on-one motivational interview-style instruction and anticipatory guidance, proven to impact behaviors that reduce cavities. In addition to teaching oral hygiene, the project builds oral health literacy and educates families on the proven links between poor oral health, poor nutrition and chronic diseases.

"Thanks to the MAXIMUS Foundation, and other funders, our program is able to provide families with the tools they need to succeed," said Dr. Vacharee Peterson, CEO of Community Dental Care. "We believe every child born deserves to be cavity free. It is a team effort— partnering with parents; collaborating with medical providers; working with diverse communities; and receiving support from local and national funders. Our goal is to empower parents to implement

good oral health practices at home with their children as soon as the first tooth appears in their mouth. When cavities occur, children suffer.”

#### **About Community Dental Care**

Community Dental Care is one of the largest nonprofit dental clinics in Minnesota and is recognized by the Minnesota Department of Health as one of six successful models statewide providing dental services for underserved communities. Its mission is to provide culturally sensitive community oral health care, preventive education and professional training, and to advocate for access to all. Founded by Drs. Vacharee and Andrew Peterson, the clinic was for-profit for 22 years before incorporating as a nonprofit in 2004. Today, they operate four clinics in St. Paul, Maplewood, Robbinsdale, and Rochester. In 2016, they provided care for more than 46,000 individuals. For more information, visit: [www.cdentc.org](http://www.cdentc.org).

#### **About MAXIMUS**

Since 1975, MAXIMUS has operated under its founding mission of *Helping Government Serve the People*®, enabling citizens around the globe to successfully engage with their governments at all levels and across a variety of health and human services programs. MAXIMUS delivers innovative business process management and technology solutions that contribute to improved outcomes for citizens and higher levels of productivity, accuracy, accountability and efficiency of government-sponsored programs. For more information, visit [www.maximus.com](http://www.maximus.com).

#### **About the MAXIMUS Foundation**

As the philanthropic arm of MAXIMUS, the Foundation extends the mission of the Company by identifying and awarding grants to partners with specialized expertise to deliver results within the same populations and communities served by the public programs the Company operates. The MAXIMUS Foundation is completely funded by MAXIMUS and its employees, and provides grants to local community organizations with programs and projects in the areas of child and youth development, health and community development.

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