



# IMPACT REPORT

## MDA Foundation Announces Grant Awards of \$104,350 to Nine Organizations

At its June meeting, the MDA Foundation Board approved grant awards totaling \$104,350 to nine deserving organizations, providing education and care for Michigan's underserved and uninsured.

"This year we received 13 applications for support totaling close to \$380,000. While we are proud to award those we recommended to the Board, there is still so much need," said Foundation Grant Committee Chair Nancy Harmon.

The requests approved this year ranged from treating children with special needs to cutting down on wait lists that seem to have exploded during the pandemic. Two awards given were to treat veterans and their families, and another grant will continue the MDA Member Assistance Program.

"Thank you so much for donating to the MDA Foundation," Harmon said. "Without your support, we couldn't help the organizations working to Improve Dental Health for Michigan's most vulnerable population. We couldn't do this work without you! To those we serve, you are their super hero."

The chart on this page lists the organizations receiving awards. Future *Impact Report* newsletters and MDA *Journal* articles will feature articles highlighting these organizations, the patients who receive care, and the staff who work day in and day out Improving Dental Health.

Grant Recipient	Amount	Use
Gary Burnstein Clinic Pontiac	\$8,950	Portable dental cart to more efficiently serve patients and cut down on wait time
Helping Hands Dental Clinic Midland	\$6,000	Partner with area hospital to reduce dental health related emergency room visits
Holland Free Dental Clinic Holland	\$10,000	Reduce wait list and serve 35% more patients
Hope Clinic Ypsilanti	\$30,000	Expanding volunteer support and adding a full-time dentist to decrease wait list
Malta Clinic Detroit	\$5,000	Cover the cost of dentures for the homeless, poor, and military veterans
Silver Creek Church Marquette	\$900	Provide dental hygiene kits to Marquette's underserved children
St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Pontiac	\$5,000	Serve special needs children — cut down on extensive wait lists
Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry Detroit	\$8,500	Dental students educating and treating Detroit's homeless population
Victors 4 Veterans Ann Arbor/Brighton	\$30,000	Partnering with VINA Clinic to serve Livingston County veterans and their families

## Program News & Special Events

### MDA Foundation Spring Veterans Campaign Raises Close to \$6,000

From May 15–31, 2021, your MDA Foundation ran its first-ever spring campaign focused on serving veterans and their families. The campaign took place via email only and raised nearly \$6,000 to improve the dental health of those who have served our country.

Many of the donors to the campaign were new to the Foundation, while others expressed how important this type of program is for the veterans and their families.

“The Foundation takes such pride in providing grant funding to organizations educating and serving Michigan’s veterans and their families” said Dr. Gary Asano, Foundation president.

Asano said that there are more than 630,000 veterans in the state, but only those injured in the line of duty receive dental benefits.

“The need for dental care is enormous,” Asano said. “It’s important that the MDA Foundation lead the way in serving the most vulnerable, and we thank all of our donors for supporting this important program.”

### Call for Nominations! Be a Part of the MDA Foundation

By Nancy Maier  
Foundation Executive Director

It’s time for the MDA Foundation’s annual Call for Nominations. And this year, your Foundation needs *you!* We’re looking for a few great people who would love to join us.

Do you believe in the work we do in Improving Dental Health? Are you interested in helping shape the future of a growing organization? Do you enjoy building on good programs and services? Do you like to work in teams to accomplish a happier, healthier Michigan? Are you looking for an opportunity to be a leader, to learn to be a leader, or just build on the skills you already have? Then — you’re a perfect fit for the MDA Foundation Board of Directors.

The Board meets four times per year, with committee meetings one to two times between Board meetings, to help shape the organization’s programs and services across the state.

If you’re interested in joining us, or know of someone who would be a great Board member, please visit the [Foundation website](#). Complete the application and return to the Foundation at [foundation@michigandental.org](mailto:foundation@michigandental.org). It’s that simple. Once your application is received, someone will be in touch with you to discuss the process and to learn more about your expertise and knowledge.

We’re a unique organization because we have Board members who are dentists and also from the community. This diversity in board membership is especially helpful in promoting the organization and getting education and care to the thousands of people we help serve each year.

**Applications are due to the MDA Foundation by Oct. 15, 2021.** We’d love to have you join us in all we do, and look forward to welcoming you to the organization!



### Sparkling Smiles Holds Virtual Happy Hour

Despite the pandemic, an extra-special event took place Thursday, April 22. That’s when 60 of the MDA Foundation’s closest donors, grant and scholarship recipients, and friends met for a virtual Sparkling Smiles Happy Hour during the MDA’s 2021 Annual Session.

“While we couldn’t be together in person, being able to spend virtual time with everyone and seeing the smiling faces made it all worthwhile,” said Foundation Board member Dr. Danny Miller. “Most of all, we’re thrilled to announce we raised \$45,000.”

Dr. Beth Rosenberg, another Foundation Board member, added, “We hope everyone had fun seeing each other and enjoyed the chance to learn more about the programs and services the Foundation provides throughout the year to Michigan’s underserved.”

Miller and Rosenberg served as the 2021 co-chairs

of the Sparkling Smiles Event. Money raised during the Sparkling Smiles event goes to Foundation grant programs educating and serving Michigan’s most vulnerable.

One program served by a Foundation grant is the MDA Member Assistance Program. “We began funding this program in 2020,” Miller said. “It provides 24/7 counseling services and other life needs such as financial planning, life coaching, elder care, smoking cessation, and so much more to members and their immediate families.” Rosenberg added, “These programs couldn’t happen without your generosity, so please support the MDA Foundation whenever you can. Any donation helps those who need help.”

The Sparkling Smiles Celebration committee will be meeting in the next month to begin planning for the 2022 event, to be held in person during next year’s MDA Annual Session at Novi’s Suburban Collection Showplace.

## Program News

### It's Scholarship Time! Application Process Now Open

Each year the MDA Foundation gives scholarship awards to dental, dental hygiene, and dental assisting students. The scholarship website at [foundation.michigandental.org](http://foundation.michigandental.org) is now open, and it's ready for students to begin applying.

Do you know or work with a dental, hygiene, or assisting student who would be a great candidate for a scholarship? Let them know about the MDA Foundation scholarship program! All they have to do is go to the [scholarship section](#) of the Foundation website, read the description of each scholarship available, then apply on the [scholarship application form](#).

It's an easy application that should take no more than 20 minutes to complete and submit. Last year the Foundation gave more than \$16,000 to 14 of the best and brightest dental, hygiene, and assisting students — and we look forward to doing the same this year.



### We're on Social Media! Follow Us Today...

Want to see more about the MDA Foundation and the impact it's making across Michigan?

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/MichiganDentalAssociationFoundation/>

Follow us on Instagram:

[https://www.instagram.com/mda\\_foundation/](https://www.instagram.com/mda_foundation/)



### In Memoriam: Dr. George L. Bletsas

The Foundation expresses sympathy to the family and friends of Dr. George Bletsas, a longtime MDA leader and namesake of the MDA Foundation George L. Bletsas Scholarship Fund.

"Dr. Bletsas was a tireless volunteer and an inspiration to many over his long career, particularly with his passionate involvement in organized dentistry," said Dr. Gary Asano, Foundation president. "Dr. Bletsas lived a life of service, and that is reflected in the scholarship fund he created to provide assistance to the dental students and dentists of the future," Asano said. "His leadership and vision are already greatly missed."

The Bletsas Fund provides awards to D3 students at Detroit Mercy Dental with a 3.0 grade point average or higher. Applicants must be U.S. citizens. Applications for the George L. Bletsas and other Foundation scholarships are open now.



Bletsas



MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



The MDA Member Assistance Program, funded by the Michigan Dental Association Foundation, provides you and your family members with FREE and confidential help for any kind of problem that affects your life or your work.

#### The MDA Member Assistance Program can help with:

- Emotional or Stress-Related Problems
- Marital or Family Problems
- Financial and Legal Difficulties
- Substance Abuse
- Problems Related to Work
- Balancing Work/Life Situations

#### Services Also Include:

- Life Coaching
- Medical Advocacy
- Work/Life Info and Referral
- Personal Assistant

If you or someone in your immediate family needs help visit [www.michigandental.org/](http://www.michigandental.org/) Assistance or call 800-788-8630 today to speak with a wellness expert to get started.



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