

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
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**MDS Foundation Dental Van  
Partners with Dorchester House**

In an effort to assist in helping the state's community health centers provide dental care to their overflow of patients, the Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) Foundation Mobile Access to Care (MAC) dental van has joined forces with the Dorchester House Multi-Service Center to treat patients at the facility.

This new pilot program began in September when the MAC van started traveling to Dorchester each Friday in order to help reduce the waiting time for patients' dental appointments.

"The presence of the MAC van at Dorchester House has been a pleasant and uplifting experience for our patients and staff," says Dr. Mark Doherty, an MDS member and director of the Oral Health Department at Dorchester House. "The MAC van is fulfilling the MDS Foundation's mission of creating more access to care for underserved populations who are victims of oral health disparities."

The MDS Foundation acquired the van in 2006 through a \$250,000 grant from Procter & Gamble. Since February 2007, the mobile dental unit, which contains two fully-equipped operatories, has been traveling to communities throughout Massachusetts with the greatest oral health needs, providing free dental screenings and treatment to low-income children.

As part of this initiative, dental staff from Dorchester House provide treatment in one operatory, and volunteer MDS member dentists provide care in the second one.

“Another important aspect of this pilot program is that it serves as a melting pot to give MDS private practitioners the opportunity to experience the world of community health and, in particular, community health dentistry, and it allows our community health dentists to meet and be educated about the world of private practice dentistry from the MDS volunteer dentists,” notes Dr. Doherty.

Because patients treated on the van are regular patients of Dorchester House, all dental treatment is billed through that organization. The initiative is scheduled to continue through December 2007.

For more information on the MAC van, contact Ellen Factor, MDS manager of district member services, at **(800) 342-8747**, extension 228, or **efactor@massdental.org**. And for the latest updates on where the van is scheduled to visit, log onto the MDS Foundation page at **www.mdsfoundation.org**.

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