

## Mobile dental unit assists lower income families

### Mobile dental



Photo by Darrell Jackson

The mobile dental clinic travels to lower income areas to assist families.

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By DARRELL JACKSON, Staff Writer |

The non-profit Community Dental Foundation has a mobile dental unit that travels the area offering low cost dental care to families in lower income areas.

“To know that these children aren’t receiving adequate oral health treatments, cleanings and examinations due to circumstances beyond their control is heartbreaking,” explained Gina Buden, director of development, in a press release. “No matter how old you are, having any oral health issues greatly affects your well-being and overall confidence level. There is a misconception that baby teeth will fall out, so proper dental care isn’t necessary – that couldn’t be more wrong.”

The foundation provides transportation, in the form of the mobile dental unit, for dental providers who go directly to those in need. Children who receive treatment are either on Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) or are offered a low cost cash rate.

“This was such a blessing for our family,” said Pamela Robinski, a Peoria resident who recently was getting her kids serviced. “We are on (AHCCCS) and it is hard to get to a dentist, so for this to come to us was great.”

Robinski’s kids were getting full service treatment in the mobile unit from dentists from the area.

The program provides mobile dental services in a very modern and efficient, fully-equipped mobile dental clinic, which goes to underserved areas such as housing communities, schools, shelters, community centers, churches and foster homes, among others.

The foundation can help children keep the smiles and keep them from getting cavities. Healthy teeth and gums are essential to a child’s well being, as are having fresh breath and a good smile.

“My kids all have great teeth, but when I lost my job I had to go on the state’s insurance,” said Glendale resident Roger Mahorn. “It makes me feel good that this program is here for my kids to keep their smile and teeth healthy.”

The foundation is dedicated to improving the oral health of children and individuals with no insurance, offering low cost cash services to everyone in the areas it services.

The program began in 2007 and has grown each year, developing a widespread patient base. On any given weekend, the foundation can be seen in numerous areas around the Valley.

The Community Dental Foundation has partnered with companies such as Safeway, Crest, Oral-B, Phoenix Suns, Arizona Cardinals and [GoDaddy.com](#), among others, to fund the not-for-profit program.

While oral health is not always the top health concern of children, parents who use the mobile unit couldn’t be more thankful for the assistance.

“This is just an amazing program that helps all of us lower income families,” said Janet Hamonds of Glendale. “It just makes dental care a lot easier since they come to us.”

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