

## Youth benefit from mobile dental service

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by [Mary Beth Faller](#) - Jun. 27, 2009 12:00 AM  
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Sometimes when a child climbs into the chair of the Community Dental Foundation mobile van and opens cavities and a painful infection.

"There could be 20 problems," says Carsten Loelke, one of the foundation's co-founders. "A child who's 3 painful to see."

The Community Dental Foundation, which recently celebrated its second anniversary, operates a mobile [care](#) to uninsured youth ages 2 to 20. The van visits shelters, foster homes, schools and community housi Equipped with two dental chairs, the van allows the foundation to treat 20 to 50 patients at each location it

Seventy-five percent of children treated by the mobile program have never been to a dentist, says Sandy non-profit foundation. With the poor economy, there has been much more demand for the foundation's sei

Thanks to the van's mobility, the program overcomes one of the biggest obstacles to pediatric dental care transportation. In addition, it visits when parents are more likely to be home from work - evenings, weeken van was open from 8 a.m. to midnight, Trudel says. Parents can sign up in the morning and get an appoin

"A lot of the patients don't have cars," says Elizabeth Yi, the foundation's other co-founder. "They can wait doors."

Dentists are efficient as well. All needed dental work is done in one visit. Each child examined is X-rayed. a root canal, the child doesn't leave until everything is done. Children take home a goody bag of dental su shirt.

The van's dentists and dental assistants do cleanings, fillings, root canals and crowns but not orthodontia, surgery.

Last week, the van was at Save the Family, a Mesa-based agency that helps homeless families transition

Fatimah Tyiska, a Save the Family client, brought her 5-year-old son, Christopher Rhaburn, to the van for

"I told him you can see the dentist anywhere - it doesn't have to be in a building," she says.

Christopher was cavity-free, which Trudel says is unusual. Many of the children not only don't know prope with soda and candy.

Desiree Riffle brought her three teenage daughters to the van, Kiera, 17, and twins Kayla and Kylea, 16. 1

"We're coming from a hard place," Riffle says. "This is not what we're used to, but we're glad to have it."

She's especially appreciative of the one-stop concept. "It's good because I can't be running back and forth have."

Loelke says the foundation's mission is to teach youth to take control of this aspect of their lives and also 1

dentist's chair is worth a long-term goal of good health.

Now that it's in its second year, the van has become a regular dental practice for some of the families. Loe sees a child who has maintained extensive dental work done months ago.

For information on the Community Dental Foundation, call 888-318-3388 or visit [cdental.org](http://cdental.org).