



# MISSION OF MERCY PITTSBURGH

*Creating a Community of Compassion*



## ACCESSIBLE DENTAL CARE—AN UNMET NEED

A toothache can mean excruciating pain—and for many of us, a quick trip to our dentist solves the problem. But what if you didn't have access to treatment? What if that dull ache became unbearable throbbing, and that unbearable throbbing led to an emergency room visit—or even emergency surgery?

That's the reality for many people in our community and the reality for health care systems, especially urban hospitals, when untreated dental issues spiral into potentially life-threatening situations. That's why with a clear vision of the issues and a commitment to serve the community and reduce stress on the healthcare community, TeleTracking Chairman Michael Zamagias, along with UPMC's Daniel Pituch, MD, DMD and Richard Celko, DMD, founded Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh [MOMPUGH] in 2017.



Untreated dental issues may lead to **BIGGER** health problems.

- 1** Pathogens can enter the blood stream, which can lead to endocarditis, an infection of the heart's inner lining.
- 2** It can tax the immune system.
- 3** It can also lead to cardiovascular disease because of the infections oral bacteria can cause.
- 4** Periodontitis has been linked to premature birth and low birth weight.

## THE LOCAL NEED—MOMPGH PATIENTS



**37%** HAVE NOT SEEN A dentist anywhere from **1-3 years.**

**22%** have visited the **EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT** due to **DENTAL PAIN.**



**39%** ARE SUFFERING from **DENTAL PAIN.**



## NATIONAL DENTAL-RELATED ER VISITS



**1** every **15 SECONDS**

Costs the **U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM** **\$1.6 BILLION** a year

Costs **3X** as much as **ROUTINE DENTAL VISIT**  
**\$749**



## HOW MISSION OF MERCY PITTSBURGH MEETS THE NEED

Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh is a free, two-day dental clinic for the underserved members of our community—from the working poor and the homeless to veterans and families who are uninsured or don't have access to affordable dental care.

These people are in dire need of the services that many of us take for granted. We celebrate the dignity of every person—providing them with access to the quality care that alleviates their pain, enhances their confidence, improves their health and gives them their smile back.

All services are provided free of charge by local dental professionals, assisted by a strong support team of volunteers. Over the course of the past two years, more than 3,300 underserved members of our community have received vital dental care from cleanings and fillings to extractions and dentures.





## WHAT IT TAKES

**100** dental chairs.

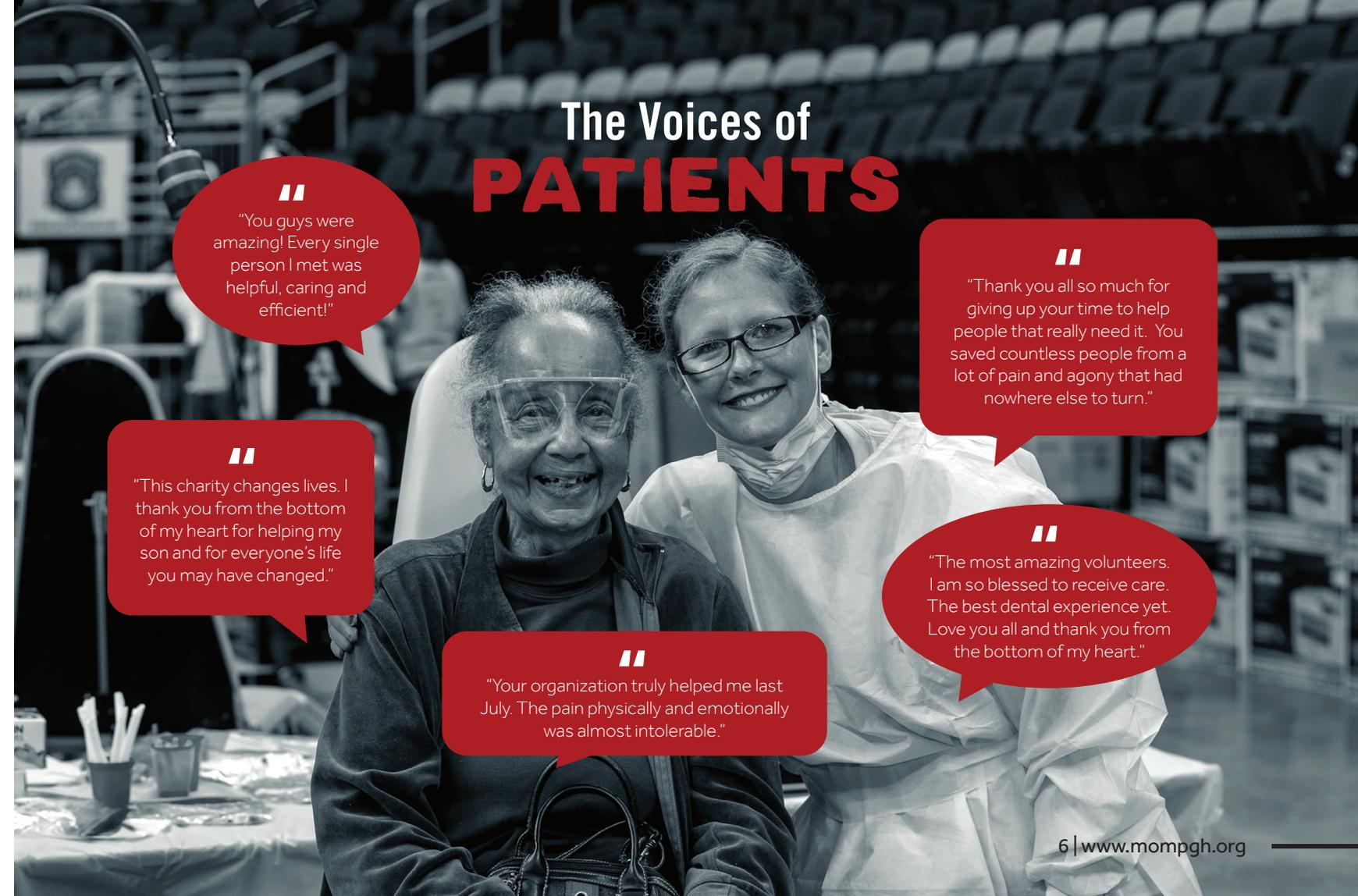
**1500** volunteers.

**UNLIMITED**

generosity from sponsors and donors.

Combined, the result is a range of services and treatments that include full dental exams, cleanings, minor restorative fillings, extractions, root canal treatments on select teeth, oral hygiene instruction and a limited number of temporary partial dental appliances.

In 2019, MOMPUGH served **1,348** patients; the total value of the services provided was **\$861,827**; the total number of procedures was **6,574**; and the value per patient treated was **\$639.34**.



## The Voices of PATIENTS

“

You guys were amazing! Every single person I met was helpful, caring and efficient!”

“

This charity changes lives. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for helping my son and for everyone's life you may have changed.”

“

Your organization truly helped me last July. The pain physically and emotionally was almost intolerable.”

“

Thank you all so much for giving up your time to help people that really need it. You saved countless people from a lot of pain and agony that had nowhere else to turn.”

“

The most amazing volunteers. I am so blessed to receive care. The best dental experience yet. Love you all and thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

# The Voices of **VOLUNTEERS**



"It was an honor and a very rewarding experience to serve the community in which I live."



"What a fabulous opportunity to give back to our community! Loved my experience helping!"



"It was heartwarming to see how appreciative all of our patients were. Can't wait to volunteer next year."



## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Keith Young**, Chairman

**Daniel Pituch MD, DMD**, President

**Richard Celko, DMD, MBA**, Dental Director

**Kim Roberts**, Secretary

**Bernie Tirpak**, Treasurer

**Sandy Boody**, Clinical Director

**Mission of Mercy Pittsburgh  
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## **CONTACT**



## QUALITY DENTISTRY CAN'T BE DELIVERED IN A VACUUM.

You need a lot of support staff, you need a lot of materials, you need a lot of resources. We can't do this otherwise. This is your chance to do something incredibly impactful to help the voiceless—the most vulnerable among us. Join us and join your community to make a difference.

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