

# Additional Partnerships

- Dental Assistant/Parent Volunteer
- Wood County Rotary Children's Dental Fund
- WVU at Parkersburg Nursing Student pediatric rotations





# A Partnership for Oral Health



The community is banning together to promote healthy kids.

Wood County is one of eight initial communities to benefit from a grant funding partnership between the Appalachian Regional Commission and the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation. The grant provides support for communities to purchase dental equipment and to plan their programs.

The statewide project is managed by the West Virginia School Health Technical Assistance & Evaluation Center at Marshall University, which provide oversight, technical assistance and evaluation. Priorities are to increase the number of children receiving preventive services, such as sealants, and to increase the number of children with a regular dental home.

The Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department (MOVHD) created a grant-funded oral health coordinator position to address and coordinate general oral health efforts in Calhoun, Pleasants, Ritchie, Roane, Wirt and Wood counties. The oral health coordinator position is beginning its third year through the generosity of the Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Fund. The position, held by a dental hygienist with a clinical and oral health educator background, includes organization and provision of preventive dental services for underserved students at the school sites. The program is open to students who do not have a dentist or who have not been to a dentist in 12 or more months. Extensive efforts are made to refer students to a dental home. All collaborative efforts focus on reducing the incidence of oral disease and improving the oral health and general health of children. MOVHD would like to establish a model that can be replicated to serve the other counties in the region if they do not already have an existing school-based program. Calhoun, Pleasants, Ritchie and Wirt counties all have school-based oral health treatment programs.

The local health department obtained portable equipment from the WVDHHR Children's Oral Health Program, and the Wood County School system transported the equipment from the health department to the school sites. The equipment included a portable dental chair, a lamp, an examiner's stool and supplies.

Funds received through this grant allowed the MOVHD to expand the current school-based oral health program in Wood County by offering sealants as a further preventive objective.

Using portable equipment in the schools, students receive an oral health screening, cleaning and fluoride furnished by the MOVHD Public Health Practice Dental Hygienist. When prescribed by a dentist, sealants are placed on teeth to help prevent decay. Referral for follow-up care is provided and students and their families are encouraged to establish a dental home.

The program is a success because of the many partners and participants in Wood County. These partners include the MOVHD that is not only the lead agency but also provides the support staff of dental hygienist, the health coordinator and office/dental assistants. MOVHD also provides the coordination of care, equipment and supplies. Erin Branham is the supervising dentist and with the help of the Blennerhassett Dental Society, the Wood County Schools, the Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Fund, the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation, the National Children's Oral Health Foundation and WVDHHR Children's Oral Health Program, the community has been able to provide dental care to those children who would not receive it any other way.

None of this would be possible without these dentists who are willing to give of their time: Dr. Stacy Dean, Dr. Dale Brum, Dr. Erin Branham, Dr. Sam Bever, Dr. Jim Szarko, Dr. Aaron Perkins, Dr. Michelle Lynch-Bowling, Dr. Larry Yeater, Dr. Lance Shears and Dr. Stu Deem. ■

## At a Glance

In the first year of the program:



370 students received an initial screening.



The average age of students who received a screening was 7.4 years old.



48 percent of students screened reported that they did not have a regular dentist.



43 percent of students screened had evidence of untreated decay.



96 percent of those screened were referred to area dentists for further evaluation and/or treatment. Of those referred, 15 students had urgent needs.



41 students had existing sealants on the initial visit.



# BARRIERS

- Lack of education regarding the importance of oral health prevention
  - Parents
  - School Nurses
  - Teachers
- Lack of participation in preventive clinics
- Reaching Title I parents; for referrals, follow-up, dental home establishment
- Weather and Logistics



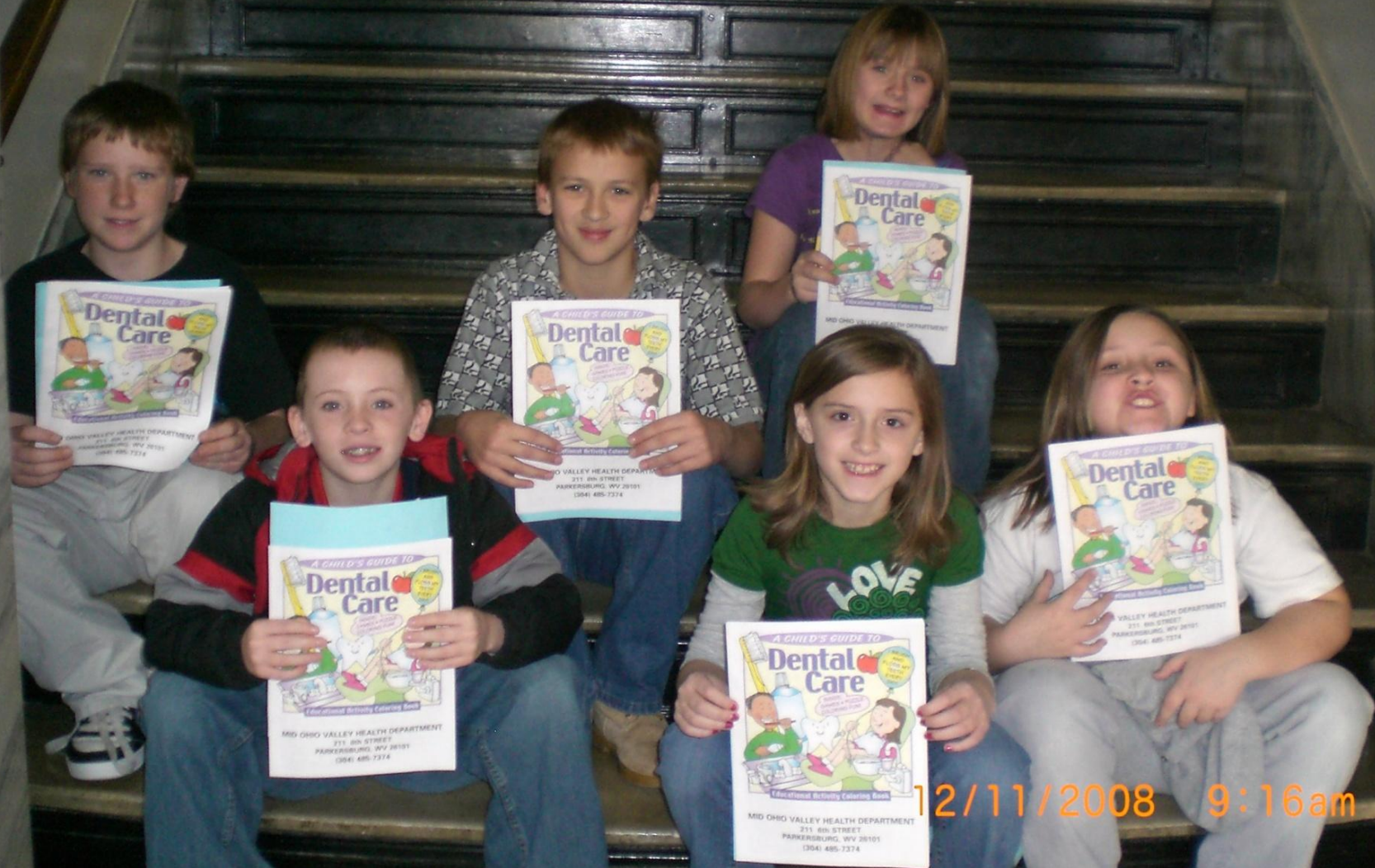
# Ten Title I Elementary Schools

All grades included in initial screenings  
3,275 Cover Letters and Parent Questionnaire's  
sent home

431 screened to 2009-2010

469 screened 2010-2011





**A CHILD'S GUIDE TO**  
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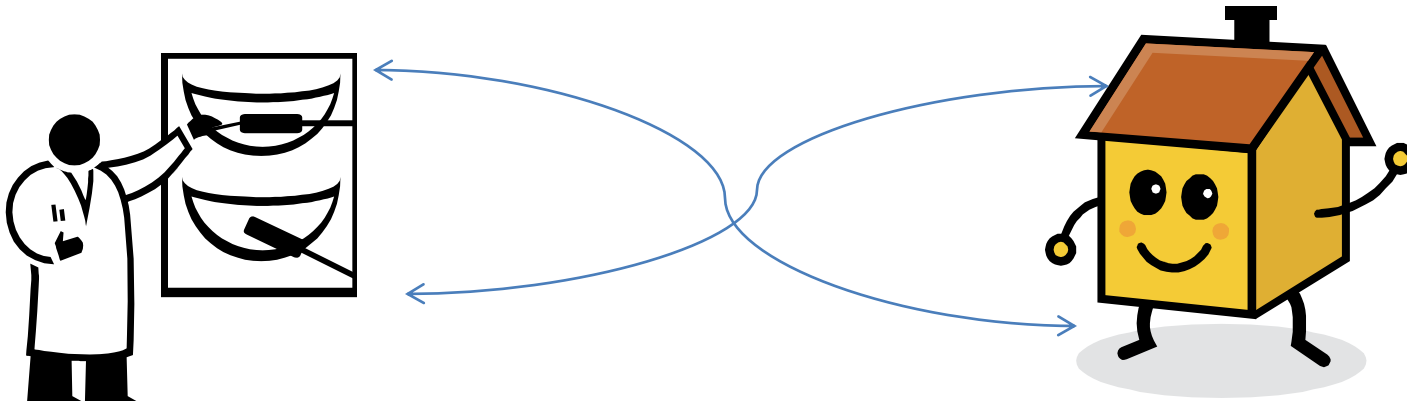
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# Dental Home

- Dentist referral list sent after screening visit
- Dentist referral sent after preventive treatment
- Assistance offered in follow-up parent phone survey



# Wood County Statistics

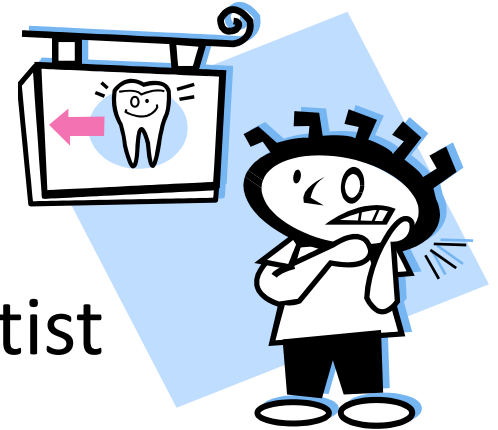
## ASTDD BASIC SCREENING SURVEY RESULTS

469 Screening within the first 6 months

28 had urgent needs

51% untreated decay

234 were referred to a dentist  
for early dental care



# Wood County STATS Con't.

- Average age of students screened 7.5 years
- 75% students reported that they did not have a regular dentist
- 22% students reported they had never been to the dentist
- 97% of those screened were referred to area dentists for further evaluation and/or treatment



# Wood County Successes are due in part to:

- DENTIST PARTICIPATION
- WOOD COUNTY SCHOOL SUPPORT
- STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SCREENINGS
- AND OF COURSE **FUNDING!**

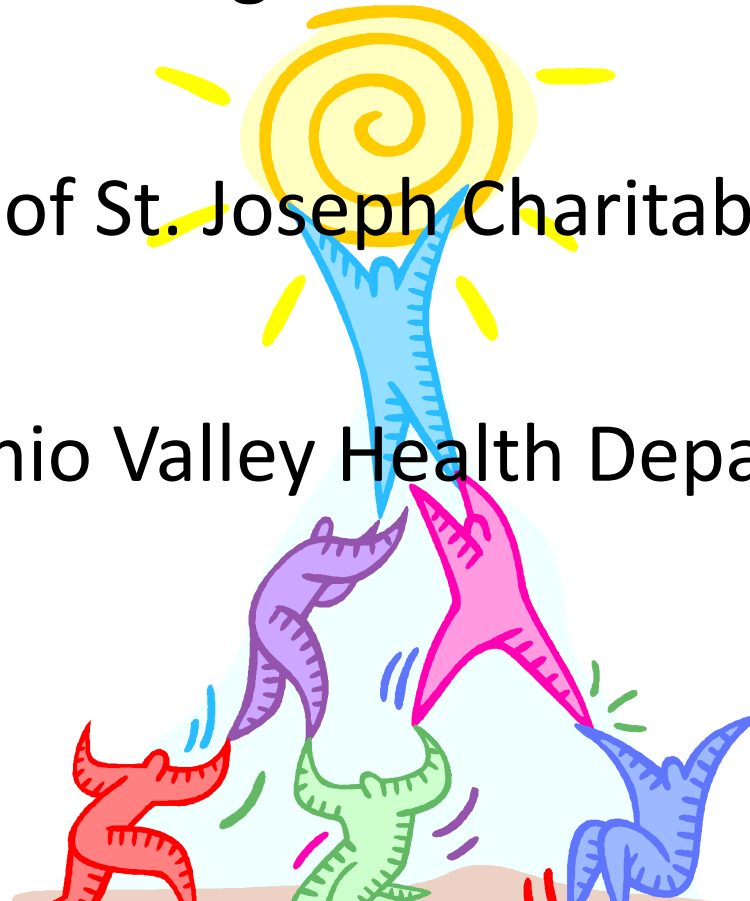


# Special Thanks

Appalachian Regional Commission and the  
Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation

Sisters of St. Joseph Charitable Fund

Mid-Ohio Valley Health Department





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December 15, 2008

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# Mid-Ohio Valley Adult Statistics

- Wood County population 86,956(78.4%adults) with approximately 40 dentists
- Population of the other five counties served in the region is 46,374(78.8% adults) with 9 dentists
- Medicare for the elderly offers no dental coverage
- Only two oral surgeons and two general dentists accept adult Medicaid in the region

# Adult Treatment Challenges

- Currently there are no public health treatment facilities for dentistry in Parkersburg
- Size of population and number of dentists restricts eligibility for FQHC or use of dental students through WVU
- Several dentists accept Medicaid/CHIP for children
- Medicaid only provides extractions to adults over 21
- Very few Parkersburg dentists accept adult Medicaid



# MOVHD Region Adult Oral Health Treatment Programs

- Good Samaritan – Free Clinic
- Minnie Hamilton Health Care System FQHC  
(serves Calhoun, Roane, Ritchie)
- Community Resources – American Recovery  
Investment Act
- Dentists that accept adult Medicaid

# MOM



# **Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic July 31-August 1, 2009**

- Served over 1,300 Adults from 28 counties in WV and 10 counties in OH
- Brought dental providers together from WV, OH, IN, VA, NC, MD and PA
- 138 community organizations donated time services or supplies
- Over 700 volunteers



# Dental Treatment Summary

- Exams, hygiene, restorative, oral surgery, x-ray and lab services \$736,698
- Dental volunteer hours 4,150 valued at \$275,195
- Grand Total: \$1,011,893

# Where do we go from here?

- Do nothing?
- Hold another MOM project?
- Raise funds for some type of public dental clinic?
- Work on a plan for dentists/dental hygienists to volunteer from their own offices?

# Where are we now?

- Funding for a full-time care coordinator and full-time OA/billing-Benedum Foundation
- Donated Digital Panorex and periapical x-ray-CRI
- WV Legislature
- Request \$200,000 over 2 yrs. for a pilot project in Wood Co.
- Initial funding from DHHR

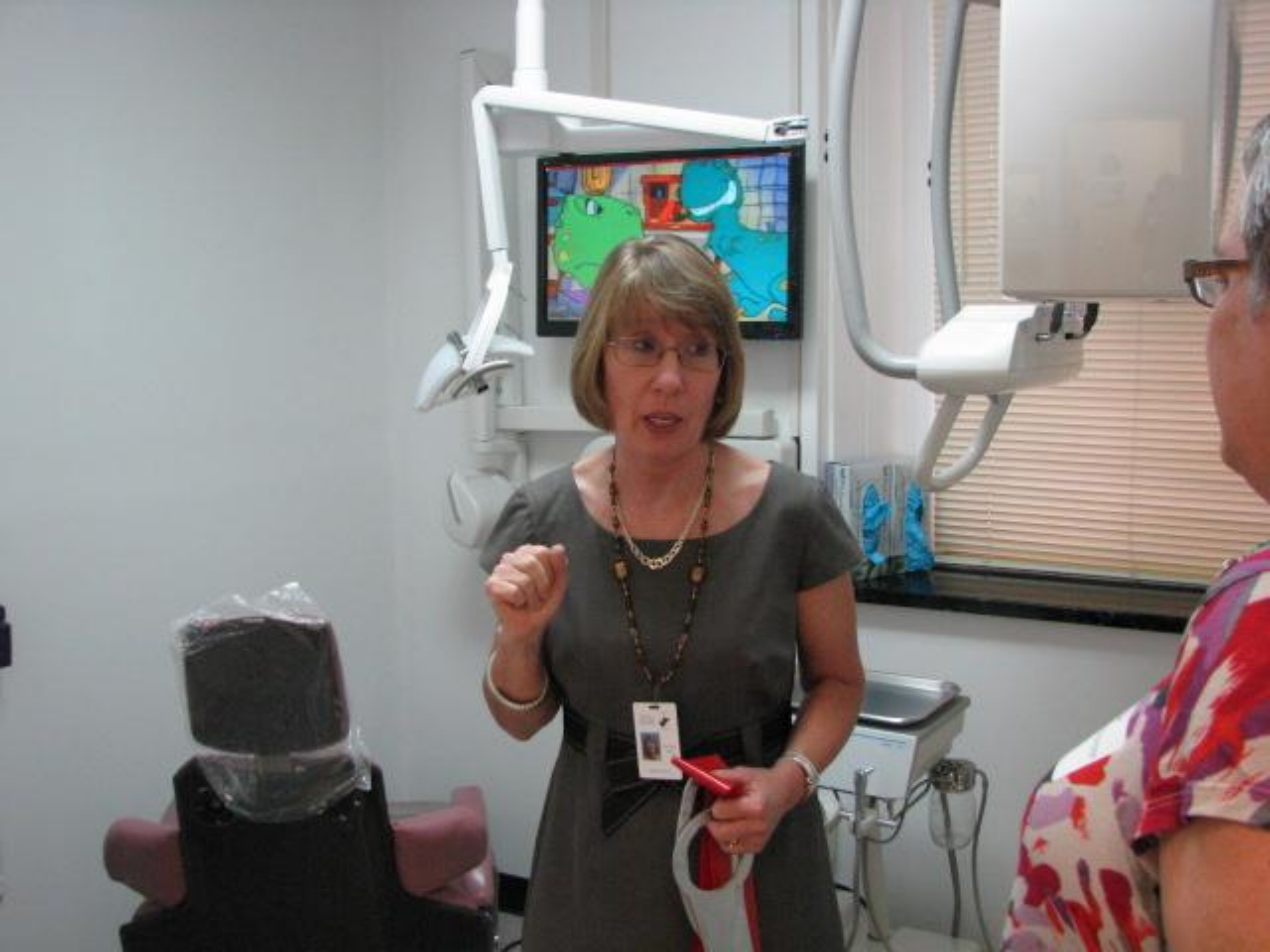


**Adult Dental Screening and Referral Program**



# Adult Treatment Program Highlights

- Provider volunteers block off time from their own office
- Coordinator screens applicants, takes x-rays and provides education at MOVHD
- Referral and scheduling assistance as well as transportation/social work



# Adult Program Parameters

- Provider bills MOVHD
- MOVHD will bill patients/Accept Medicaid and sliding scale up to 250% of Federal Poverty Income Guidelines
- Fees generated used to pay provider a stipend for overhead.
- Volunteers liability covered by MOVHD





# Adult Program Benefits

- Dental providers work with their own staff, equipment and preferred materials
- Dental providers obtain up to 5 hrs. CE, 3 for hygienists
- Dental providers do not handle any billing
- X-rays transmitted in advance to aid in treatment planning
- Coordinator works closely with patients to reduce/eliminate no show rate
- Patients payment for services gives them a stake in treatment aids with sustainability



# Program Challenges

- Funding
- Initial “start-up” phase – develop all forms related to patient treatment and care/purchase of all supplies and equipment
- Care Coordinator working closely with dental community and clients
- Contract with volunteer providers

# Positive Outcomes

- A model could be developed to meet the needs of adults in the MOVHD region
- The model could be duplicated in other parts of the state or country
- Cost effective



