

Perkins donate services



Dr. Jerry and Debbie Perkins of Hooker staffed the Oklahoma Dental Foundation's Mobile Dental Van on a recent visit to Guymon.

Dr. Jerry Perkins and his wife, Deborah of Hooker, volunteered during a July 26 visit by the Oklahoma Dental Foundation's Mobile Dental Van.

The Mobile Dental Van provided treatment in Guymon for children who met income eligibility requirements and do not have a dental home. This event was coordinated in partnership with the Texas County Health Department.

This was the first time the two have been able to volunteer and they were excited to donate their time and expertise for two hours.

Dr. Perkins saw two patients, one which needed extensive treatment but he was not the only dentist working the day in Guymon. Dr. Kurt Gibson was also at work in the van which features two units.

"We are so excited to be able to help," Debbie Perkins said. "The van doesn't come to Guymon very often."

Kristy Love is the coordinator for the van in this area. Persons may contact the Texas County Health Department for more information.

The mission of the Oklahoma Dental Foundation (ODF) is to improve the oral health of Oklahomans by funding scientific research, supporting dental education and increasing patient access to care.

Thousands of Oklahoma's children have untreated dental needs and have gone too long without access to adequate dental care. The Mobile Dental Care Program has been created to address this need.

The ODF's mobile dental van is a fully equipped modern dental office on wheels, designed to provide care throughout the State of Oklahoma.

There is an increasing need in the State of Oklahoma to reach out to underserved populations that are not currently receiving dental care, in particular those who cannot afford care, and those who must travel too great a distance to make dental care possible.

The Access to Care initiative of the Oklahoma Dental Foundation seeks to reach those who fall in these categories through the Mobile Dental Care Program.

The Mobile Dental Care Program is dependent on the volunteer services of dentists, hygienists and dental assistants. As they travel throughout Oklahoma, van coordinators and local volunteers work with site partners including schools, community health centers, Head Start and local social service agencies to identify and schedule patients and promote the mobile dental van's visit to their community.