It Takes A Community: 

Students, Faculty and Staff Volunteering to help the underserved population
“We cannot walk alone. And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back.”

From “I Have a Dream...” speech by Dr. Rev. Martin Luther King at the March on Washington (1963)
Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, **what are you doing for others?**
Students, Residents, Faculty, Staff Team Up to Give Kids a Smile
Making Mouth Guards for Student Athletes
For more than 30 years, Dr. William Godwin has supervised dental students during the annual summer mouthguard clinic at the School of Dentistry. Last summer, he offered tips on trimming the protective equipment to Samuel Meyrowitz and Shirley Paek.
Dental Hygiene Day –
Volunteering at Community Dental Center
“Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends. And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.”
I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."
Oral Health Care for Veterans

The Wolverine Patriot Project

DENTAL STUDENTS, DENTAL ALUMNI INVOLVED

A group of dental students from the School of Dentistry and a husband and wife dental team who earned their dental degrees from U-M in 1989 and run a private practice have joined forces to provide oral health care to disabled and homeless veterans in Gaylord, Michigan.
Dental Scholars Return to Perry Nursery School
Dental Scholars Begin 2nd Year with Community Service
Drs. Marita Inglehart and Kenneth May urge high school students to go to college.
Dr. James Lee (left) and Dr. Mark Cooks and two other School of Dentistry alumni provided free oral health care to uninsured and underserved patients on Martin Luther King Day in January.
The Kaleva Elementary School was one of three sites where U-M dental students provided oral health care to migrant workers and their children.
Andy Tibbitts shows one child at the Mill Creek Elementary School in Williamsburg, Michigan, the correct way to wrap dental floss around her fingers.

To help children understand why flossing is important, dental students developed skits they used in classrooms. At the Mill Creek Elementary School in Williamsburg, a student (second from right) volunteered to be a “tooth” while dental student Andy Tibbitts (right) used a jump rope to illustrate the proper way to floss. Other “teeth” are (left to right) dental students Paul Orley, Justin Newingham, and Justin Smith.
Dr. Kelly Burgess (right) checks the work dental student Justin Smith is doing on a patient at the Mill Creek Elementary School in Williamsburg, Michigan.

Using a broom to represent a toothbrush, dental student Paul Orley shows children at the Mill Creek Elementary School how to properly brush so “sugar bugs” (germs) don’t damage teeth and gums. Dental students Justin Smith (center) and Justin Newingham (right) hold a poster they created showing gums and teeth.
Demonstrating their community service, Dental Scholars collected and delivered more than 60 grocery bags of food, far exceeding their goal of 40 bags, and delivered them to The Salvation Army’s Washtenaw County facility in Ann Arbor in September.
The Huron Valley Boys and Girls Club
Dental hygiene student Amy Parks inspired 87 of her colleagues to make gift bags that contained dental necessities for patients at a rehabilitation center.
We must learn to live together as brothers or we will perish together as fools.

Martin Luther King
Outreach Expands...More Sites, More Collaboration

The U-M School of Dentistry has expanded its community outreach program in the Traverse City area and launched a new outreach program in the Thumb area of Michigan’s Lower Peninsula. The efforts follow pilot programs earlier this year in Traverse City and Bad Axe showing a need for additional oral health care and a willingness among local providers to participate. U-M dental students began working with private practitioners, local health agencies, and community colleges in May to provide oral health care to the underserved and underinsured. These experiences complement other School of Dentistry outreach initiatives throughout Michigan.
Dr. Wayne Olsen, second from left, mentors U-M dental students during their rotation at the Traverse Health Clinic.
Dental Students Volunteer for Outreach Dentistry at the Michigan State Prison
Community Research, Community Service...

The Detroit Dental Health Project & the School of Dentistry
Among those involved with the Detroit Dental Health Project are (left to right): Dr. James Betz; Nikia Banks, research assistant; Charity Hicks, project coordinator; and Patricia Piechowski, research associate.

“We’re trying to empower families and give them important information they need about oral health that will allow them to make a major difference in the lives of their children.”

Dr. Amid Ismail
“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

I have a dream today!”
“When you’re at the University of Michigan School of Dentistry, our expectation is that you will do great things,” says Dr. Yvonne Kapila.

“Now, we are raising the bar. We will challenge our students and faculty to do greater things, not just in classrooms, clinics, and research laboratories here, but around the world.”
Dental students Ashley Green (left) and Jami Ballantine (center) help children at the Kithoka Primary School in Meru, Kenya learn how to use computers that were refurbished by the School of Dentistry. In the background is Dr. Yvonne Kapila.
Dental student Ashley Green talks to students at Gichunge Primary School about the importance of good oral health.

Dental Students, Faculty, Join U-M Colleagues in Kenya
Students working with faculty to develop oral and general health surveys at the Thier Center in Meru, Kenya.
During visits to classrooms in Liberia, Nejay Ananaba demonstrated flossing to students. In this photo, students hold up several fingers on one of their hands and use crocheting yarn as a surrogate for dental floss.
U-M Dentist Helps in Kenya and Uganda

Photo courtesy of Dr. Sam Zwetchkenbaum

At a hospital in Kenya, Dr. Sam Zwetchkenbaum (right) listens to an interpreter who relays information conveyed to him about a family’s oral health needs.
“Everything that we see is a shadow cast by that which we do not see.”
– Martin Luther King, Jr.
U-M Dental Students, Alumnus
Team Up in Honduras
Dentistry in Honduras...
Two Dental Students Volunteer
Children, adolescents, and adults waited in line for hours to have a chance to receive dental care at a makeshift clinic in Honduras.
U-M DENTAL STUDENTS REACH OUT IN JAMAICA
U-M School of Dentistry Videos Helping in Afghanistan
Dental Student Helps in Thailand
Making a Difference
Dr. Lynn Johnson helped three dental students from Ghana (left to right) Esther Danquah, Martin Tetteh, and Sabina Parry learn more about dental education last fall at the School of Dentistry.
“With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood.
“With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.”
Taft Honorary Dental Society

Dr. Jonathan Taft, who became the first Dean of the University of Michigan School of Dentistry in 1875 and retired as Dean in 1903, promoted the dental profession and inspired those entering it. Wishing to advance his ideals, the Jonathan Taft Honorary Dental Society was formed in 1963. The Taft Society manifests these ideals by fostering dental education and scholarship, engaging in various public service activities, encouraging cooperation between faculty and students, and initiating the future dentist into his or her role and responsibility in the community. A volunteer organization open to both dental and dental hygiene students of all levels, the Taft Society each year presents awards to graduating seniors who have made significant contributions to the Society’s goals.

Vice President Mariya Volvosvsky and President Dmitry Vodopyanov
AAPHD Student Run Clinic Pilot Session
We’d like to take a quick moment to give a big THANK YOU to all who helped contribute to the roaring success of the Mitten Tree this past holiday season!

Thanks to the generous donations from faculty, staff, students, and even patients, we were able to provide a record amount of winter clothing and toiletries to the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County at the Delonis Center and C.S. Mott Children's Hospital!

Here’s to an even bigger and better Mitten Tree next year!

Thanks again,
Doug Fujawa (D4) and Benjamin Jamo (D4)
“And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children,
black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual:

Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!”
Past Ida Gray Award Recipients

2013 - Wolverine Patriot Project, Elizabeth Easter, Juana Gissendanner
2012 – Richard Lugo, Dr. Henry Temple, Dr. James Lee
2011 - Christinel Dima, Evelyn Lucas-Perry, Dr. Sharon Brooks
2010 - Synthinia Pryor, Javier Johnson, Dr. Preetha Kanjirath
2009 - Dr. Ali Nikoo, Nejay Ananaba, Dean Peter Polverini
2008 - Elizabeth Rodriguez, Joan Anderson, Dr. William Gregory
2007 - Patricia Anderson, Brent Frey, Dr. Marilyn Woolfolk
2006 - Tamanika Terry Stewart, Paul Lopez, Dr. George Taylor
2005 - Diane Nixon, Justin Smith, Dr. Todd Ester
2004 - Patricia Katcher, Erika J. Tyler, Dr. Graham R. Holland
2003 - Cara Voss, Paula Lloyd, Dean William Kotowicz
2001 - Cheryl Quiney, Damon Watson
2000 - Dr. Emerson Robinson
1999 - Dr. Lisa Tedesco
1998 - Dr. Marita Inglehart
1997 - Dr. Lee Jones
2014 Ida Gray Winner – Scott Ward
2014 Ida Gray Winner – John Squires
2014 Ida Gray Winner - Isabel Castillo
“If you can’t fly, then run,
if you can’t run, then walk,
if you can’t walk, then crawl,
but whatever you do,
you have to keep moving forward.

— Martin Luther King Jr.