

## **Reno Veterans in Need and Denied Treatment at VA Receiving Expedited Pro-Bono Care at New Dental Clinic Coordinated by Northern Nevada Dental Health Programs**

**Reno, Nev.** (November 4, 2015) — Thousands of low-income veterans in Reno and throughout Northern Nevada suffer every day from oral health issues and cannot afford to get the treatment they need. Due to highly restrictive guidelines set forth by the VA, 95% of these veterans are denied treatment by the VA Dental Clinic, leaving them with untreated oral decay that leads to deteriorating overall health.

While Northern Nevada Dental Health Programs' Adopt a Vet Dental Program (AAVD) has successfully paired over 650 low-income veterans in need with over 115 volunteer dentists in the community to receive pro-bono dental treatment, the number of veterans in need continues to grow rapidly and hundreds are still on an approximately two year waitlist for care. In an effort to expedite treatment of those waitlisted, Northern Nevada Dental Health Programs coordinated an endeavor with its administrator, Community Health Alliance, and two Reno dentists to treat veterans three days per week at the Community Health Alliance Wells Avenue Dental Center until the waitlist is diminished.

This operation is running in addition to support received by 115 other area dentists who have generously donated and continue to donate their time and services to veterans in need through AAVD. Because of this extra effort, the number of waitlisted veterans has decreased by over 100 over the last six months. However, due to increasing number of cases paired with the denial of treatment at the VA Dental Clinic for so many veterans, AAVD is still looking for more dental care providers who would like to participate in the program and give back to area veterans.

"While the goal is to have all waitlisted veterans cared for by the end of 2016, the reality is that there will always be a need for dental care for our low-income veterans," said Northern Nevada Dental Health Programs President Gregory J. Pisani, DDS. "In addition to this special operation, we still rely on the much needed help of volunteer dental providers throughout the community to treat individual cases."

### **Quick Facts – Adopt a Vet Dental Program (AAVD):**

- In order for veterans to receive services from the VA Dental Clinic they must be classified as disabled (100% service connected), have been injured in the jaw or mouth while in service, or have been a prisoner of war
- Over \$2.3 million in dental services has been donated by 115+ volunteer providers, 13 dental labs have provided free or discounted services and 650+ veterans have been treated since 2010

For more information about Northern Nevada Dental Health Programs and/or the Adopt a Vet Dental Program, please visit [www.nndhp.org](http://www.nndhp.org) or contact [kaity@ocean-pr.com](mailto:kaity@ocean-pr.com) or 775-544-9647.

**About Northern Nevada Dental Health Programs**

Originally started as The Pediatric Dental Care Program in 1982 by a modest group of concerned doctors, Northern Nevada Dental Health Programs (NNDHP) is now the largest volunteer organization in Nevada providing no-cost to low-cost dental care to uninsured, at-risk children and to low-income veterans who do not qualify for dental care at the VA. A model for other communities, the organization consists of two programs including Healthy Smile Healthy Child and the Adopt a Vet Dental Program, both of which are administered by Community Health Alliance.

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