

## **New Dental Clinic Opens at Truckee Meadows Community College to Serve Veterans in Need**

*Thanks to William N. Pennington Foundation over 200 veterans will see shorter wait times and receive expedited care*



**Reno, Nev.** (April 4, 2017) — With the help of a grant from the William N. Pennington Foundation and in partnership with Truckee Meadows Community College’s (TMCC) Dental Clinic, Northern Nevada Dental Health Programs’ [Adopt a Vet Dental Program](#) (AAVD) has opened a new dental clinic to serve local low-income veterans in need. In addition to the 110+ community dentists and 14 dental labs that donate their services as volunteers of AAVD (which to date have helped 850+ veterans), this new clinic will be instrumental in cutting wait times and expediting

care for 200+ more veterans currently waitlisted for the program.

Located in the TMCC Dental Clinic, the new operation is headed up by three retired local dentists including Dr. Joe McElhinney and Dr. Bob Devin (also a veteran) who will perform restorative dental care, and Dr. Tom Myatt who will perform triage, simple and emergency extractions. Two dental assistants will work alongside these providers, while dental assisting students currently enrolled in the TMCC Dental Assisting Program under the direction of Julie Muhle, Program Coordinator Professor, will also participate with assisting, setup, x-rays, and sterilization.

“This clinic is a dream come true,” said Adopt a Vet Dental Program Founder Linda Haigh. “Because so many local low-income veterans are denied treatment by the VA Dental Clinic and cannot afford to get care on their own, the waitlist for AAVD has grown swiftly, causing our veterans to wait two years to see a dentist. With this new clinic – and thanks to TMCC and the William N. Pennington Foundation – AAVD will be able to serve more veterans in a shorter period of time, leaving less veterans suffering in pain for so long.”

The William N. Pennington Foundation was established in 1989 by Founder William N. Pennington, a veteran himself who grew up during the Great Depression when his family faced very difficult times and in 1942, at the age of 19,

volunteered to serve his country during World War II as an Army pilot. When the Foundation learned about AAVD and the strides it has made to help veterans receive much needed dental care, as well as the 200+ veterans who are still waiting for their chance to go through the program, they stepped in to help.

Every year since its inception in 2010, AAVD, which targets low-income veterans taking home below 150% of the federal poverty level (around \$900 per month on average) hears from significantly more veterans, including younger ones from recent wars, seeking help. While the program continues to pair veterans with volunteer dentists in the community to receive care, it has reached a point where it also requires the addition of this clinic component in order to attend to the masses in need.

For more information about the new Adopt a Vet Dental Program Clinic please call 775-470-8707 or email [charlotte.worthley@nndhp.org](mailto:charlotte.worthley@nndhp.org). For more information about the Adopt a Vet Dental Program and/or Northern Nevada Dental Health Programs visit [www.nndhp.org](http://www.nndhp.org).

#### **About the Adopt a Vet Dental Program**

The Adopt a Vet Dental Program (AAVD) provides low-cost to no-cost dental care to low-income veterans in critical need throughout northern Nevada. These veterans survive on an average income of only \$900 per month, do not qualify for dental care at the VA Dental Clinic and cannot afford to obtain dental care anywhere else. In its 7<sup>th</sup> year, AAVD has received over \$4.2 million in donated dental services by 110+ volunteer dental providers and free or discounted services from 14 dental labs, which to date, has made it possible for 850+ veterans to receive the care they need.

#### **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 low-income veterans who do not qualify for dental care at the VA and uninsured, at-risk children through its Adopt a Vet Dental and Healthy Smile Healthy Child programs.

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