

ADA American Dental Association®
America's leading advocate for oral health

Impact a Life. Inspire a Community.

Volunteer opportunities for dental professionals.



Whether you are a dental student or retiree, or your career falls somewhere in between, you have countless opportunities to contribute your time and skills to make a difference in the lives of people who otherwise could not access or afford oral health care. Your contribution can span from one hour in your local community to two weeks in a remote village in Tanzania. Your impact can surpass all your expectations.



Give Back Locally

As a dentist, you serve your community by making a commitment to its oral health. Giving back through volunteering and providing community service can be one of the most fulfilling aspects of your career. Even contributing an hour to speak to local preschoolers about the importance of brushing can make a difference. Touch the life of someone in dire need of oral health education or treatment and experience the true meaning of giving back.

Give Kids A Smile®



Give Kids A Smile (GKAS) is a one-day event at thousands of locations across the U.S. that provides free dental care to children from low-income families who otherwise would not receive any preventive or restorative care, or any oral health education.

Programs range in size from addressing the needs of a few children in single dental offices to hundreds of kids at large events.

Volunteers include dentists, hygienists, dental assistants, office managers, and others,

so it's a great opportunity to involve your entire office. Learn more at givekidsasmile.ada.org or e-mail gkas@ada.org. Registration begins October 1 each year for February programs.

Plan now to Give Kids A Smile® on the first Friday of February each year:

Feb. 5, 2010	Feb. 3, 2012
Feb. 4, 2011	Feb. 1, 2013
Feb. 7, 2014	

OralLongevity™

Launched in September 2007 and made possible through a generous grant from GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare, the OralLongevity program encourages patients to maintain oral health through all phases of life, and visit the dentist where they can receive care from trusted professionals. The initiative includes educational resources and innovative programs targeting the special needs of an aging population that you can use to reach out to older adults in your community through senior health events and in retirement communities. Visit orallongevity.ada.org to access the resources and for more information.

Donated Dental Services

The Donated Dental Services (DDS) program which is coordinated by the National Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped (NFDH) and its state affiliates enables you to provide meaningful care to some of America's most vulnerable people.

Dentists donate comprehensive treatment for one or two disabled, aged or medically compromised patients each year who cannot afford care or get public aid. A DDS Coordinator manages the logistics, you treat the patient. Participation couldn't be easier. Visit www.nfdh.org for more information and to become a volunteer.

Other Local Opportunities

- Your state or local dental society is a great resource to find volunteer opportunities within your community. Many societies sponsor programs, such as a mentor program for dental students or job shadowing for the local high school, that give you an easy and fun way to give back by becoming a role model to potential future dental professionals.
- Local community health centers provide an interdisciplinary approach to patient care, which includes oral health care. Federally qualified health centers provide care to individuals regardless of their inability to pay. You can find a community health center near you by checking findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov.
- Schools provide a great way to give back to the local community. You can visit a preschool class during February, National Children's Dental Health Month, to reinforce the importance of oral health. Free downloadable oral health educational resources can be found at www.ada.org/goto/ncdhm. Or you can present at the local high school during a career fair to pique interest in the dental profession. Consider providing care within local school-based dental programs. Visit www.ada.org/goto/careers for targeted resources on choosing dentistry as a career.

“ There are dedicated dentists and staff working in the Public Health Service making a difference. There are facilities that need the help of volunteers. There is tremendous need.”

—Dr. Leo Miserendino, White Earth Health Center, MN

Give Back to Native Populations

American Indian/Alaska Native Dental Placement Program

To assist the Indian Health Service (IHS) in providing dental care to American Indian and Alaskan Native populations, the ADA has coordinated the American Indian/Alaska Native Dental Placement Program. You can volunteer a minimum of two weeks where natural beauty is abundant, but dental professionals are not. Even dental students are eligible to assist in providing oral health care within these settings. For more information on the American Indian/Alaskan Native Dental Placement Program call **312.440.7487** or e-mail **podschung@ada.org**. Dental students interested in the IHS Dental Externship or learning more about careers within the Indian Health Service should visit **www.dentist.ihs.gov** for more information.

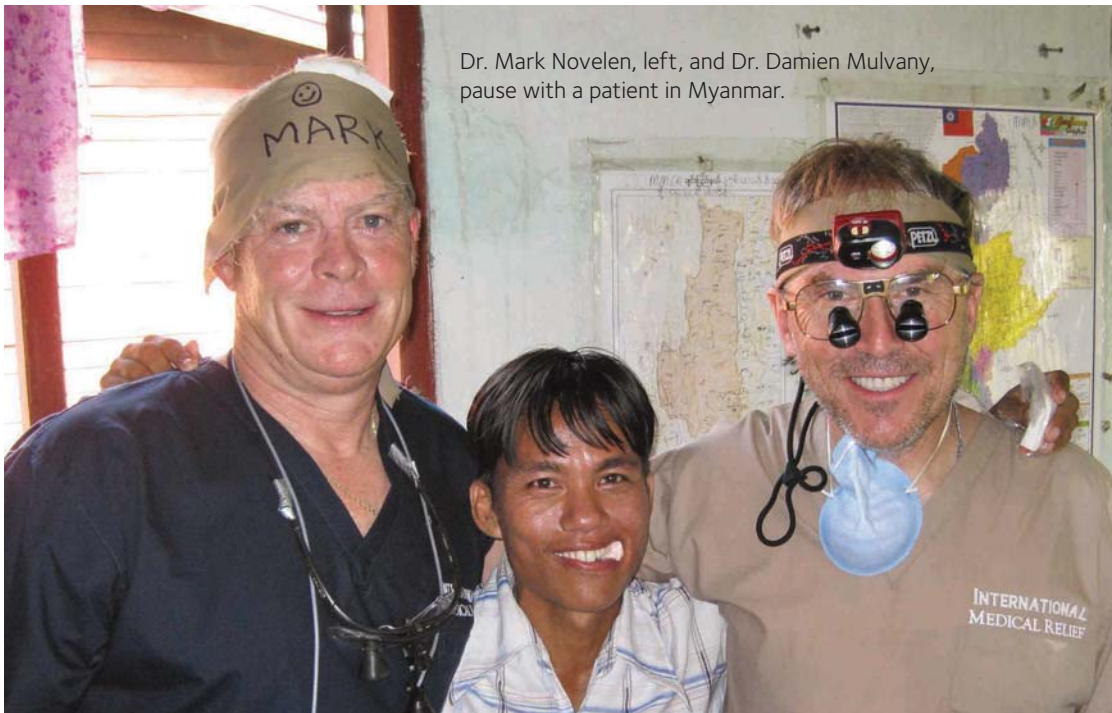


Give Back Globally

If you are ready to commit one week or more of your time and immerse yourself in remarkable cultures, the ADA Health Volunteers Overseas Oral Health Initiative Programs offer extraordinary opportunities to make significant contributions to underserved populations beyond U.S. borders.

International Volunteer Opportunities

Participating in an international volunteer project is a tremendous opportunity for new experiences and career enhancements, allowing you to appreciate another culture and way of life, while making a positive contribution to a local community. You may choose to provide continuing education to general dentists in St. Lucia; practice dental treatment and preventative care in clinics that serve schools, orphanages and remote villages in Tanzania; or if you have an academic background or clinical experience you may opt to provide support to the faculty at the National University of Laos in Vientiane. For more information e-mail international@ada.org or call 312.440.2726.



Dr. Mark Novelen, left, and Dr. Damien Mulvany, pause with a patient in Myanmar.

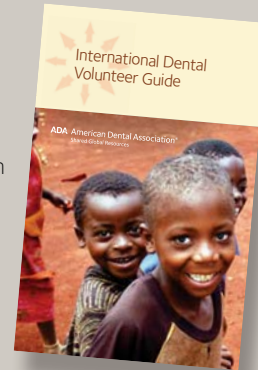
- **ADA/HVO Oral Health Initiative:** Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) is a private non-profit organization committed to improving health care in developing countries through training and education. By emphasizing teaching, the ADA/HVO Oral Health Initiative Programs, which are sponsored by the ADA, aim to create an indigenous group of trained health workers who can teach others. This builds a sustainable program that will benefit the population long after the volunteer has departed. To learn more visit www.hvousing.org.
- **New!** ADA International Volunteer Web site outlines valuable information to assist you with all aspects of volunteering overseas – from preparing for your trip to returning home. And with an extensive inventory of organizations that offer international volunteer opportunities to dental professionals, you are able to search for the program that suits you! Visit Internationalvolunteer.ada.org.

“ I was able to donate my time as an educator and felt that it was at an appropriate level. To tell the truth, I gained more from them, which elevated my level as a surgeon. I now know that if I want to do the most exciting and challenging aspects of the scope of my speciality, then all I have to do is take a couple of months off and go for a visit to the Dar Es Salaam Hospital.”



—Dr. Charles Bloomer, ADA/HVO Oral Health Initiative, Tanzania

International Dental Volunteer Guide has information about starting a volunteer program, preparing for a volunteer trip, and what to expect upon returning home. Request your copy at international@ada.org or **312.440.2726**.



ADA Humanitarian Award recognizes ADA members who have distinguished themselves with outstanding leadership and contributions in the field of dentistry, through the dedication of extraordinary time and professional skills to improve the oral health of underserved populations in the U.S. and abroad. For more information visit www.ada.org/goto/volunteer.

ADA Certificate of Recognition for Volunteer Service in a Foreign Country acknowledges the personal effort and self-sacrifice of ADA members who donate their time to improve the oral health of communities in underdeveloped countries. ADA members who serve in a foreign country for at least 14 days in a 24 month period are eligible. Certificate applications and criteria can be found at www.ada.org/goto/volunteer.



“Volunteering is where my joy comes from, it’s not about me. It’s about a passion for service, a lifestyle that’s a formula for peace and joy, a balanced life with giving back. In the process, you can make a difference in peoples’ lives and help them re-chart their destinies.”

—Dr. Robert Kinsaul, 2009 Humanitarian Award Recipient

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