



ZÖe Pediatrics Foundation

RE: Mobile Dental Van

Dear Community Partner:

Children from poor families in middle and south Georgia (Ten Counties: Lamar, Upson, Spalding, Pike, Troup, Marion, Talbot, Harris, Taylor, Meriwether, and Chattahoochee) have limited access to dental care. With your help, we (The ZÖe Pediatrics Foundation) would like to close this gap by outfitting a “Mobile Pediatric Dental Office” to address the needs of this population. Very few Pediatric Dentists practice in rural counties---especially rural Georgia.

Tooth decay has been a preventable disease for over fifty years, when before the only option was extractions and appliances (false teeth). The public health formula that leads to the dramatic improvement in dental health is threefold. (1) Fluoridate drinking water (preventing a third of cavities), (2) twice a year preventative check-up; and more importantly, (3) brushing and flossing daily. As a result, dentists migrated from just pulling teeth and fitting false teeth to preventive dentistry, endodontics, periodontics, prosthodontics, and prosthodontics. While dental care has seen dramatic improvement, the dental needs of the poor continue to lag. In fact, the poor and specifically poor children are the only segment of the population who continue to have tooth decay.

Pediatric dentists provide specialized care for children through adolescence. They are trained to recognize and treat dental problems that are specific to children.

Poor children have twice the rate of untreated tooth decay than their better off schoolmates. These dental problems are much more than cosmetic, as the infections often lead to even more problems.

The ZÖe Pediatrics Foundation is an independent 501c 3 not-for-profit Foundation, (TAX ID 47-5083340). The Foundation is the not-for-profit affiliate of ZÖe Pediatrics Inc., which is a for-profit Limited Liability Company. Zöe Pediatrics provide medical care to over 200 patients per day. In the Pediatric Practice it was identified that dental referrals were difficult in our service area. The ZÖe Pediatrics Foundation is seeking to help provide dental care to all children. In some of the service areas where the Dental Van is needed, patients are an hour away from a dentist who will accept Medicaid, so they are not able to go.

A well -equipped Dental Van will provide us the portability to go to the need so we can enhance our ability to serve a population that is clearly in need. There are too many children with no access to dental services.

The Dental Van would be on a rotating basis in the ten counties. There would be an offer for free dental health education and a checkup for children. Those who have dental concerns will either be treated by our in-house pediatric dentist and dental hygienist or referred to another dentist for follow-up.

Our mission is vital. Please partner with us to make this a reality. The ZÖe Pediatrics Foundation is seeking start-up funding. After year one, the program will be sustainable through government sponsored Medicaid. Thank you for your consideration. The Dental Van will have sponsorship logos on the outside with custom wrapping. We are excited to partner with you and to help Thomaston, Georgia and the surrounding communities. Please let me know if I can provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,

Kelly Turner
Director, ZÖe Pediatrics Foundation
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