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Local dentists supporting VIM

Special to the H-T May 24, 2013



Courtesy photo Shown above is the volunteer dental extraction team. From left are Ashley Allen, Dr. Jeff Jones, Dr. Timothy Devitt, Jody Dunn, Teresa Tolbert, Nichole Krahenbuhl, Maddison Wilson and Suzzette Bowman, front center.

Jeff Jones, DDS, of Liberty Family Dentistry; Timothy Devitt, DMD, of Bloomington Oral Surgery; and several of their dental assistants volunteered their time and expertise to conduct a free “extraction clinic” for patients of Volunteers in Medicine.

Twenty patients were identified over the past few months as needing one or more teeth pulled. These patients attended an “X-ray clinic” the week before conducted by Debbie Nixon, volunteer dental hygienist. During the extraction afternoon, 55 teeth were pulled. “There is a huge need for additional dental services for VIM patients. While I volunteer at VIM once a month, the need for dentistry far exceeds the available dental resources, even with local dentists accepting VIM patients in their offices,” says Jeff Jones.

Devitt agreed. “We decided that bringing our teams together and doing extractions in one fell swoop would be the most effective and efficient way of beginning to address the dire need to serve people who would not otherwise be able to afford dental care. Our entire team was very supportive and enthusiastic about supporting VIM; still this was tip of the iceberg,” said Devitt.

The community-operated, community-owned and community-financed Volunteers in Medicine clinic provides primary care for acute and chronic conditions, walk-in, mental health and dental care. The clinic, opened in 2007, is at 811 W. Second St.

For more information or to volunteer for the Volunteers in Medicine clinic, visit www.vimmonroecounty.org online or send an email to info@VIMMonroeCounty.org. To make a donation to the clinic, contact the Bloomington Hospital Foundation at 353-5002.

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