



NEWS

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS
COURT HOUSE, NORRISTOWN, PA., BOX 311, 19404-0311

Frank X. Custer, Communications Director

Jessica Willingham, Communications Assistant

PHONE (610) 278-3061 FAX (610) 278-5943

COMMISSIONERS: JOSH SHAPIRO, *Chair*

VALERIE A. ARKOOSH, MD, MPH, *Vice Chair*

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“Give Vets A Smile” Pilot Program A Success

Norristown, PA (December 3, 2015) – Three Montgomery County dentists brought smiles to the faces of Montgomery County veterans without dental insurance and with limited financial resources, on November 18 when they provided free dental services to veterans.

The one-day “Give Vets a Smile” pilot program provided a free, one-hour appointment that included a check-up, cleaning, and basic dental procedure in dental offices in Abington, Jenkintown, and Lansdale.

The three offices combined did over \$11,000 in dental care on 15 at-risk veterans. All the veteran patients had complete diagnosis and treatment plans made by the participating dentists, and those in need are being referred for follow-up medical care. Efforts are being made by the dental community to find places for these individuals to complete their care. This pilot program has exposed the tremendous need for dental services (and medical) for this population of veterans.

The effort was organized by Dr. Jay Freedman of Abington who hopes the program, patterned after “Give Kids a Smile,” will continue to grow. The Montgomery County participants are part of a statewide non-profit group, Donated Dental Services, which is hoping to expand the program to a recurring, twice-a-year event in Montgomery, Bucks, Chester, and Lehigh Counties as well as Philadelphia.

The Montgomery County effort was coordinated by the Montgomery County Department of Veterans Affairs. The Montgomery County Veterans’ Affairs Shuttle provided transportation to and from the appointments for those who needed it.

Veterans in need of services in Montgomery County may call the Department of Veterans Affairs at 610-278-3285.