IMPORTANT WORK STILL TO DO:
- Work to reinstate adult dental benefits that were cut by the MN Legislature in 2009.
- Work to reinstate Critical Access Dental Payments unallotted by the Governor in 2009.
- Identify additional transportation funding to help reduce barriers to patient care.
- Secure resources for mobile dental equipment to improve access to care.
- Identify additional dentists to support the care needed to serve our patients.

THANKS TO OUR VENDORS AND CONTRACTORS

who helped with our recent expansion and renovation:
- DeMarchi Construction
- D-L Electric
- Hills Plumbing and Heating
- Cabinets Plus
- Haluptsok Flooring
- Dan’s Decorating
- MooseCreek Graphics
- Patterson Dental
- Trust Technology Services

1405 Anne Street NW
Bemidji, MN 56601
(218) 444-9646
www.northerndentalaccess.org

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
- BemidjiLeads! 2008 Stewardship Award.
- 2009 National Association of Counties Best Rural Program Award.
- 2009 Association of Minnesota Counties Achievement Award!
- Presentation of white paper: “Rural, Grassroots Community Organizing Brings a Dental Home to Those in Need,” MN Rural Health Conf., 2009.
- Clinic expansion in 2010 expands to nine operatories and two overflow hygiene suites.
- Thirteen dentists throughout the state provide care here on intermittent terms; some are volunteer, others are contractors or locum tenens. More are welcome!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Robert Enger, Esq.
Colleen Falk, M.S.
Cathy Gunvalson, RDH
Warren Larson
John Lueth, D.D.S.
Mary Marchel
Laura Schwindt, D.D.S.
Jeanne Edevold Larson, M.S.
Executive Director

2009 ANNUAL REPORT
CRITICAL NEED

- Tooth decay is the single most common chronic disease of childhood; for every $1 spent on preventive care, about $4 is saved in dental costs.
- National studies find substantial disparities in the level of access to dental services by poor and minority groups who are at most risk of developing dental disease and infection.
- The service region in and around Beltrami County hosts the highest birth rates in the state, highest percent of single parent families (alarming rates of infant mortality and births to teen mothers); highest rates of overall poverty and children in poverty, especially among American Indians; and lowest median household income and highest rates of public assistance payments per capita.
- In 2003, less than 1/3 of Minnesota children under age 21 who were enrolled in Medicaid received any dental visits (American Dental Association, 2003). In northwest Minnesota, more than 6,000 children (ages birth to 19) are enrolled on Minnesota Care and Medical Assistance—16% of all children...almost double the state average. These children and their families face lifelong consequences of not having a dental home.
- Diabetes, heart disease, and premature low birth weight babies all have a correlation with the incidence of periodontal disease.
- Nationally, it has been estimated that 51 million school hours per year are lost because of dental-related illness alone.
- The dentist to population ratio in rural Minnesota is below the national average of one dentist for every 1,800 people. All area counties in the northwest Minnesota region are designated DHPSA (Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas).

MISSION: Working to provide access to a dental home for those in need.

GOALS

- Eliminate pain
- Reduce disease
- Build community awareness of the role of oral health in overall health

OVERVIEW

- Accepts patients on Minnesota Health Care Programs.
- A place where area dentists can refer MHCP patients.
- State-of-the-art dental equipment and technology.
- A great place for area dental practitioners to provide community service.
- Public Health is on site providing child and teen exams, immunizations, vision/hearing checks and more.
- A family-friendly environment with large play area for children.
- A case management approach helps patients address barriers.
- Insurance counseling is available on site to help families enroll and stay enrolled in MN Health Care Plans.

PATIENT SNAPSHOT

2200 patients served
1000 patients waiting
43% are children; 12% seniors
56% Bemidji
10% Red Lake, Blackduck, Redby
6.5% Fosston, Bagley, McIntosh
5.5% Cass Lake