

# New Haven Dental Association NEWSBRIEF

A BULLETIN FOR NEW HAVEN DENTAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

DECEMBER 2007

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NHDA Website  
[www.newhavendental.org](http://www.newhavendental.org)

## NEW HAVEN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

THURSDAY, December 6, 2007

## HOLIDAY PARTY

UNION LEAGUE CAFÉ  
1032 CHAPEL STREET  
NEW HAVEN, CT

6:00 COCKTAIL HOUR

COAT AND TIE REQUIRED

COST: \$50 FOR INDIVIDUAL  
\$80 PER COUPLE

Please RSVP to Dr. Yiming King at (203) 624-5181 or by email to  
[yimingk@hotmail.com](mailto:yimingk@hotmail.com)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

With the holidays upon us, 2007's final days will fly past in a blur of greens and reds and wrapping paper. Like everyone else, I'll be taking it all in gladly. Whether tradition specifies eating turkey or latkes, lighting Christmas trees or Hanukah candles, it's hard not to be swept away by the tide of warm cheer and, yes, shopping. But ironically, the quiet peacefulness and the need to reflect at the heart of the season can be hardest to come by just now. And the truth is, we have it good – very, very good. Why reflect? Why not just enjoy?

This, for me, is why: a friend recently told me about a “blog” written by a young Iraqi dentist named Mohammed in Baghdad. On his website (<http://last-of-iraqis.blogspot.com>), as circumstances permit, Mohammed chronicles horrific bombings, scary road checkpoints, material deprivations, the disappearances of friends. His English isn't perfect, but he writes with dignity, diligence, and even humor. Because, as a dentist, Mohammed is considered an intellectual, he finds himself targeted with death by radical militias. Elsewhere in Iraq, military dentists with the American forces are carrying out their duties under mortar fire and electricity problems, thousands of miles from loved ones. When I think about these distant colleagues of ours, working under conditions most of us never face, one cannot help but be flooded with gratitude and respect. It's a profound experience – those feelings.

It is my fervent hope, as we gather together this season, we go beyond mere feelings and get into action also. While we reflect on our many blessings of “the most wonderful time of the year,” let us also remember that the deepest lessons of the holidays are those we pass on to others. Our profession gives us the rare power to bring healing, joy, and hope to others in an unusually visible way. As dentists in Connecticut, we enjoy particularly great privilege. Let us endeavor to pass along our gifts, and to look consciously for opportunities to do so. As dentists, we seldom need to look beyond our own practices for these chances. If we remember this, we can keep the spirit of the season alive year round.

Many blessings to all of you and your families!

Joe

## Connecticut's Mission of Mercy

The Connecticut State Dental Association is embarking upon a remarkable humanitarian effort, to reach out and provide dental care to the citizens of our state that need care the most. This project is called "Connecticut Mission of Mercy", or CTMOM. The inaugural event will take place **April 11-13, 2008 at Tolland High school**. Future projects will be conducted in underserved areas of the state where there are not enough dental practitioners to adequately address the oral health needs of the community. Due to the lack of public transportation infrastructure in many underserved areas in Connecticut, patient transportation will be arranged through partnerships with local transit services that will provide shuttle service to and from the CTMOM location.

Services provided will be set up by service categories, which are preventive services (cleaning, x-rays, fluoride treatments), oral surgical (extractions and biopsies) and restorative services (fillings).

Volunteer dental professionals from private practice, clinic and residency settings and school settings will be required to fill out tracking forms for each patient served, noting the type and number of procedures performed. If a patient needs follow – up care (extractions, etc.), he or she will receive a post-op form that includes a local dentist or clinic where he or she can go for treatment. Should the individual experience complications in the days immediately following the clinic, the availability of a provider is crucial and affords the patient with the opportunity to receive good standards of care from a dentist who has agreed to see CTMOM patients.

Despite the donated equipment and labor, there remain operating expenses of the program. Connecticut's Mission of Mercy project aims to serve approximately 750 patients for the first year and the dental materials and supplies needed to keep the program functioning need to be purchased. It is estimated that a budget of \$107,000.00 is needed (based upon the costs incurred by other state's programs) to supply \$375,000.00 to \$450,000.00 of free care for the Tolland County location. The majority of patients seen will not have any type of insurance coverage.

Connecticut's Mission of Mercy is seeking donations from local Dental Societies, businesses and from individuals. Donations are tax deductible and all donors will be noted in future publications.

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### **Connecticut Mission of Mercy Component Society Donor Honor Roll**

\_\_\_\$25.00 Incisor Club

\_\_\_\$250.00 Molar Club

\_\_\_\$50.00 Canine Club

\_\_\_ \$500.00 The Arch Club

\_\_\_\$100.00 Premolar Club

\_\_\_\$ 1,000.00 + The Full Dentition Club

\_\_\_ \$\_\_\_\_\_ Friend's Club

*Thank you for your support!*

Make checks payable to the CSDF in care of the CTMOM Project

CSDA Central Office

CSDF c/o CMOM

385 West Queen Street

Southington, CT 06489

Phone: (860) 378 - 1800

New Haven Dental Association  
Dr. Richmond P. Hung  
655 Saw Mill Road  
West Haven, CT 06516

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GIVE KIDS A SMILE** – Date set for February 9, 2008 at University of New Haven Dental Hygiene School. Volunteers and donations needed. Contact Dr. Gerald Alexander @ 782-0677 or drgalexander@comcast.net or Dr. Gary Rappaport @ 795-4748 for more information.

**ASSISTANT AVAILABLE** - Christian Löfvall will be visiting the US from December through March. He will be under a J-Visa, a type of visa for temporary workers which will allow him to hold short-term employment in the US. Christian is 22 and a fifth-year student of dentistry school in Argentina. He plans to search for grad schools in the US for his future, while here for this time. He would love to be an assistant to a dentist. He has great computer skills and speaks English fluently, in addition to his native Spanish. Please contact his brother, GABRIEL LÖFVALL @ 860-869-5475 or by email gabilof@yahoo.com for a resume.

**DEARLY DEPARTED** – Dr. Anthony Montano and Dr. Arthur Pines recently passed away. A donation has been made to the NHDA Fund for Dental Caring from Dr.'s Henry Cohen, Joe Siracuse and Bruce Cha in honor of their memory and devotion to the community. Additional donations can be made to the fund.

**GOODWILL TRIP** - Dr. Jack Levine will be heading to Tanzania on a volunteer mission to provide dental care and train local health care workers. Textbooks, reference manuals, and instruments are needed and your donations would be greatly appreciated. Please call Dr. Levine at (203) 624-7571 to arrange a drop off. For monetary contributions, please contact Barbara Edwards with Health Volunteers Overseas at (202)296-0928 or visit the fundraising page @ [www.firstgiving.com/jacklevine](http://www.firstgiving.com/jacklevine).