

GDA

ACTION

THE JOURNAL OF THE GEORGIA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

MARCH 2012



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**GDA Workforce Census
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Cobb Practice's "Dentistry from the Heart" Event Draws Hundreds of Patients

The Dentists Care column features charitable dental efforts created or supported by GDA member dentists. If you would like to suggest a charitable dental event or organization, email Delaine Hall at hall@gadental.org.

What the Charitable Effort Involved

Dr. Michael Mansouri and Dr. Azita Mansouri, married GDA member general dentists with practices in Gwinnett and Cobb counties, conducted a Dentistry From The Heart (DFTH) charitable care event for individuals age 18 and older at their Cobb office in November 2011. The practice advertised the availability of the first-come, first served, one-day, free care event in local media outlets, and worked with community and dental sponsors to ensure that enough dental, volunteer, and patient supplies were on hand. The doctors were overwhelmed by both the numbers of patients who lined up to receive care, and the outpouring of support from their community and vendors.

DFTH is a national non-profit organization dedicated to providing free dental care to those who need it. Every year, indi-

vidual dentists and practices across the country donate their time and resources to host their own DFTH events. The organization promotes and unifies events on a national level. DFTH was founded by Dr. Vincent Monticciolo in 2001 when he offered a full day of free dental care from his New Port Richey, Florida office. The organization has grown to include hundreds of hosts across the nation, and Dr. Monticciolo continues to provide free care in his office.

The Volunteers Who Made a Difference

By 3:30 a.m. on the Saturday of the dental charitable event, there were more than 400 prospective patients in line. Initially, Dr. Azita and Dr. Michael expected to be able to treat 150 patients, but with a total volunteer turnout of 11 doctors and approximately 70 dental staff members, 217 patients were provided with much-needed care. Kudos to Drs. Grace Bae, Shahrokh Bagheri (oral surgeon), Nadia Esfandiarinia, Ami Majmundar, Ali Makhmalbaf, Azita Mansouri, Michael Mansouri, Farid Moghaddam, Thuc

Nguyen, Abtin Shahriari (oral surgeon), and Robert Wunderle (oral surgeon) for their efforts.

Both Dr. Azita and Dr. Michael are exceedingly grateful to their sponsors, who covered the approximately \$20,000 cost of hosting the event. The four primary sponsors were KeyWorth Bank, Willeford Group, United Concordia Dental, and MICROCOPY. Others contributing were Pure Life, 3M ESPE, Premier Dental, Oral-B, Henry Schein, Peacock Partnership, Discus Dental, Switzer Medical, Chick-Fil-A Johnson Ferry, McDonald's Lower Roswell Road, Dunkin Donuts, Longhorn Lower Roswell Road, Papa John's Lower Roswell Road, Suburban Rental Lower Roswell Road, and Johnson Ferry Baptist Church. Many area residents also turned out to provide patients waiting overnight with warm food.

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Some of the nearly 100 volunteers who turned out in support of a Dentistry From The Heart charitable dental care event conducted by Dr. Azita Mansouri and Dr. Michael Mansouri of Northern District.