



News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PATTERSON FOUNDATION DECEMBER GRANTS INCLUDE MAJOR PARTNERSHIP WITH OPERATION GRACE MN**

February 6, 2017 (St. Paul, Minn.) – At its December 15 board meeting, the Patterson Foundation awarded \$277,000 in grants to nonprofit organizations across the U.S.

Operation Grace MN received the largest grant – \$120,000 for operating support for its program to provide comprehensive dental care to underserved high school students through its mobile dental clinic. The Foundation also provided a \$60,000 grant to Operation Grace at its September meeting.

“Providing access to quality dental care has been a keystone of the Foundation’s charitable giving for many years, making it a natural choice to partner with Operation Grace MN,” said Dave Misiak, president, Patterson Foundation. “We are completely on-board with their goal to serve young people and are thrilled to support this good work taking place in Patterson’s backyard.”

Operation Grace MN is working with school systems throughout Minnesota to provide care to students. The organization selected 12 secondary schools in the Twin Cities, Duluth, St. Cloud and Buffalo that have high populations of low-income families who are unable to access essential dental care. Each school identifies the students eligible for care, secures parental permission for treatment and schedules the patients.

“More than seven thousand students have been identified as needing care. This is the first time some students are receiving a dental cleaning or even seeing a dentist,” said John Braddock, executive director, Operation Grace MN. “With the support from the Patterson Foundation, we now have the resources to confidently move forward with our program to reach more schools and students.”

Braddock predicts that the organization will be able to provide approximately \$1 million in dental care to students with 3,700 preventative and restorative appointments this year.

Other grant recipients from the Foundation’s December meeting, and the communities where each is located, include:

- American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry Charitable Foundation – Madison, Wisconsin
- CARE Clinic – Red Wing, Minnesota
- Dental Lifeline Network – Denver, Colorado
- Holland Free Health Clinic – Holland, Michigan
- Interfaith Dental Clinic – Nashville, Tennessee
- Love INC of the Tri-Cities – Grand Haven, Michigan
- Mercy Health Center – Athens, Georgia



- Oasis Free Clinics – Brunswick, Maine
- Roundup River Ranch – Avon, Colorado
- Ruth's Place Clinic – Granbury, Texas
- South Bay Children's Health Center – Redondo Beach, California
- St. Elizabeth's Health Center – Tucson, Arizona
- St. Vincent de Paul – Detroit, Michigan
- Tri-County Dental – Appleton, Wisconsin

#### **About the Patterson Foundation**

Patterson Foundation is a private grant-making foundation that awards higher education scholarships to the children of Patterson Companies employees and provides grant funding to nonprofit organizations in the oral health and animal health fields. The Foundation focuses its grants on programs that provide dental care to disadvantaged communities and assistance dogs to veterans and people with disabilities. The Patterson Foundation is funded primarily by current and former employees of Patterson Companies Inc. Visit [pattersonfoundation.net](http://pattersonfoundation.net) for more information.

#### **About Patterson Companies Inc.**

Patterson Companies Inc. (Nasdaq: PDCO) is a value-added distributor serving the dental and animal health markets.

#### Dental Market

Patterson's Dental segment provides a virtually complete range of consumable dental products, equipment and software, turnkey digital solutions and value-added services to dentists and dental laboratories throughout North America.

#### Animal Health Market

Patterson's Animal Health segment is a leading distributor of products, services and technologies to both the production and companion animal health markets in North America and the U.K.

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