



Media Contacts

Kate Kennedy

Kate.Kennedy@cc-dc.org

202-772-4312

Alexandra Porben

Alexandra.Poren@cc-dc.org

202-772-4379

Catholic Charities DC to Offer Free Dental Clinics in Mid-Maryland Mission of Mercy

First of 10 monthly one-day clinics for those in need will be Sept. 18 in Silver Spring

WASHINGTON, Sept 9, 2021 — Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington will offer 10 monthly one-day dental clinics during the Mid-Maryland Mission of Mercy to help low-income residents overcome barriers to good oral health.

The free services for adults with appointments will take place beginning at 8 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month at one of Catholic Charities' three dental facilities. No clinics will be held in December or July 2022. The first three clinics are:

- Sept. 18 at the Catholic Charities Center, 12247 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20902,
- Oct. 16 at the Susan Denison Mona Center, 5859 Allentown Way, Temple Hills, MD 20748, and
- Nov. 20 at the Spanish Catholic Center, 1618 Monroe St. NW, Washington, DC 20010.

“For the past eight years, Catholic Charities DC has provided over \$3 million worth of free dental services to 3,750 patients at the biannual Mission of Mercy free dental clinic,” said Deacon James Nalls, executive director of the Family, Parish and Community Outreach department and organizer of the event. “Because of the pandemic, we’ve moved from a one-day event to monthly clinics. We hope that the new model will address the huge demand for oral health access in the community.”

Mission of Mercy offers oral-hygiene education and the restorative treatments fillings and extractions. Dentists will determine which emergency services can be offered to patients. If necessary, follow-up services will be done by local dental providers.

“We are thrilled to offer access to dental care, as many of our patients, due to certain circumstances, are not able to receive proper care. Without good oral health, there are medical conditions such as hypertension, diabetes and COVID-19 in which an individual can have worsening symptoms,” said Dr. Lucciola Lambruschini, director of dental services.

Volunteer dentists and dental assistants will staff the clinics, and supporting volunteers will serve as greeters, registrars and interpreters. In all, 100 volunteers will support this important oral health initiative.

“Dental professionals and supporting volunteers are incredibly generous and eagerly give their time and skills to care for other people who do not have access to dental care,” said Margaret O’Neill, director of volunteer engagement.

The Mid-Maryland Mission of Mercy would not be possible without support from the Maryland State Dental Association Foundation.

Resources: [Details about the Mid-Maryland Mission of Mercy clinics](#) are available on our website. For information on volunteer opportunities, visit <https://bit.ly/3jhzMJh>.

Media: To schedule an interview with Deacon James Nalls, Dr. Lucciola Lambruschini or Margaret O’Neill or to attend one of the clinics, contact Kate Kennedy at Kate.Kennedy@cc-dc.org and 703-201-5139 or Alexandra Porben at Alexandra.Porben@cc-dc.org and 954-740-1888.

About Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington

Catholic Charities DC is the largest independent social services agency in the Metropolitan D.C. area. As the charitable arm of the Archdiocese of Washington, Catholic Charities DC invests in communities by providing critical services to hundreds of thousands of people in need throughout the District of Columbia and Montgomery, Prince George’s, Charles, Calvert and St. Mary’s counties in Maryland. The organization works tirelessly to give help that empowers and hope that lasts to those it serves regardless of background, belief or circumstance. For more information, visit www.catholiccharitiesdc.org and follow us on social media @CCADW.