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Mary's Center Receives Funding from the Delta Dental Community Care Foundation to Improve Access to Dental Services

Washington, DC — Today, Mary's Center announced a grant from the Delta Dental Community Care Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of California, to offer enhanced dental services to the greater Washington, DC community. The upgrades include new state-of-the-art equipment and renovations to increase capacity for providing high-quality, equitable care.

"We are very thankful for Delta Dental's continued generosity and support," said Dr. Richard Gesker, Vice President of Dental Services at Mary's Center. "For over 20 years of providing dental care at Mary's Center, we have been focused on expanding access for all, and this grant will further our mission of closing the gaps to ensure all of our neighbors can show off a bright, healthy smile."

Oral health directly affects every individual's overall health and quality of life, and dental services are a core component of Mary's Center's holistic, multipronged approach to care. By providing access to essential dental care to an under-resourced population that is often medically complex or at high risk for complications, Mary's Center improves the health of the community and reduces emergency room visits.

"We are proud to partner with Mary's Center to support their important mission of providing beneficial health and oral care services to those in need throughout the greater Washington, DC area," said Kenzie Ferguson, vice president of foundation and corporate social responsibility for Delta Dental of California. "This partnership enables us to achieve our broader mutual goals of increasing equity and access to dental health care, especially for the underserved, and helping to make the communities we serve stronger, healthier and more resilient."

Mary's Center provides preventive and restorative dental care six days a week at three health centers in Washington, DC and Maryland. In 2021, Mary's Center served the oral health needs of over 14,000 community members, 13% of whom were uninsured.



To learn more about Mary's Center's dental services, click here.

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About Mary's Center

<u>Mary's Center</u> is a community health center serving over 60,000 people of all ages, incomes, and backgrounds in the Washington, DC metro area for over 30 years. With an integrated model of health care, education, and social services, Mary's Center offers each participant individualized care on the path toward good health, stability, and economic independence. For more information, visit <u>www.maryscenter.org</u>.