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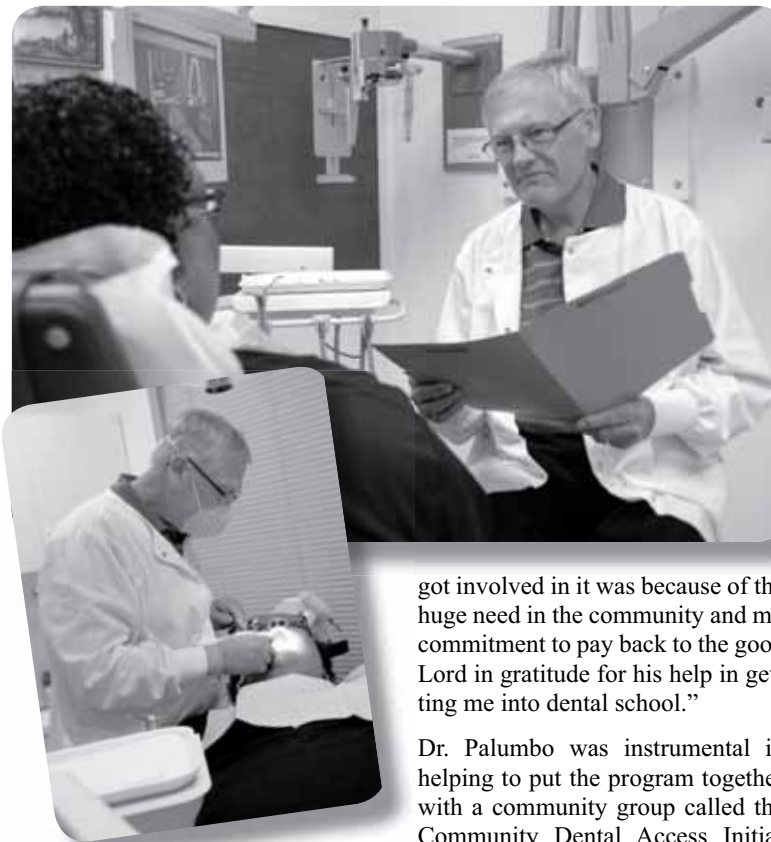
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United Way Success Story:

Dr. Charles Palumbo/ Dental Access Initiative

Dr. Charlie Palumbo is a local dentist who volunteers his time providing dental treatment to individuals with the greatest and most urgent needs, regardless of their ability to pay, through the Dentists' Partnership. The partnership is an initiative of Community HealthCare Connections and is funded, in part, by United Way.

Since its inception, Dr. Charlie Palumbo has been involved in the Dentists' Partnership, providing access to urgent dental services for the uninsured with little or no income. "I've participated in voluntary care



for needy people ever since I've been in practice in Battle Creek starting in 1989 with the Nursing Clinic here in Battle Creek. The reason I

got involved in it was because of the huge need in the community and my commitment to pay back to the good Lord in gratitude for his help in getting me into dental school."

Dr. Palumbo was instrumental in helping to put the program together with a community group called the Community Dental Access Initiative.

"I've encouraged my peers to assist us with the program. I've spoken at dental meetings and it's been very successful, we have 36 dentists that

are now participating in the program, but the need is great and more partners are needed."

Over the past two years the dentist partnership has provided 1,787 donated dental treatment visits to 1,089 patients.

"In return for that service the folks who are qualified have provided over 7,700 hours of community volunteer service out of gratitude for what they have received dentally through the program. And according to national averages that has a value of about \$20 per hour of service or in the neighborhood of \$150,000 worth of donated services, on behalf of the clients, has been provided back to 58 volunteer agencies in the Calhoun County community over the past two years."

Dentists' Partnership client, Don-tale Dixon adds, "It makes me feel good to know that I am part of all the volunteer hours that have been provided to the community. I feel good that I've helped the community. I think the program is great for people with no insurance who can get their teeth done, that need it done. I'm just very happy, excited (about the program)!"

Advancing the Common Good: Measurably Improving Lives

By Chris Sargent and Rick Odden



Chris Sargent,
President and CPO

The success story above is an example of a program that is a collaborative effort to improve the lives of residents in greater Battle Creek.

Over the past year, United Way of Greater Battle Creek has been undergoing some very exciting changes in the way donor dollars are invested back in the community. While we have always been extremely responsible with the contributions in which we have been

entrusted, it is safe to say that the change to Advancing the Common Good as our strategic direction has helped make us more focused and deliberate with the investments we make as well as the ability to clearly measure and report on the results the programs are achieving, as is the case with the Dentists' Partnership.

We cannot say enough about the community volunteers who have invested their time into the process of developing our health investment pillar. From the members of the vision council, the health investment team, the Planning and Investment Committee, to the volunteers on our board of directors, it is the volunteers, community

members like yourself, who ultimately determine how these valuable community resources are best put to use to serve the residents of greater Battle Creek.

As we move forward with the three pillars of Advancing the Common Good; Education, Income and Health and become more focused, we recognize that unfortunately there are pains in that process where some of our strong partners with some very good programs will not be funded under the new model. This isn't United Way making a decision about the success or effectiveness of a program, but more of a decision about the comprehensive, focus-nature of the work that we are intending to do and the evi-



Rick Odden,
Chairman, Health Investment Team

dence for community change for which we will achieve.

United Way's goal, and the goal of the many volunteers who have spent significant time on this process, is to mobilize the caring power of the community to Advance the Common Good by measurably improving lives for the people of greater Battle Creek.