

STATE SENATOR • GILDA Z. JACOBS • 14TH DISTRICT
Jacobs Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 27, 2008

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**SEN. JACOBS CONGRATULATES SOUTHFIELD DENTAL CLINIC AS
GRANT RECIPIENT**

Clinic awarded \$20,000 to continue free dental services to uninsured

LANSING— Sen. Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) today expressed congratulations to the Tri-County Dental Health Council of Michigan, Southfield, as recipient of a \$20,000 Blue Cross Blue Shield grant to provide free emergency dental services to the uninsured.

The grant will allow the Tri-County Dental Health Council to continue their efforts to provide emergency dental care to the uninsured through its Dental Emergency Assistance Program. This unique program screens eligible clients and matches them to volunteer dental offices in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. The 2008 grant will allow them to expand those efforts.

"This is an effective way to assure that free treatment for dental infection and pain relief is available to hundreds of our most vulnerable citizens," Sen. Jacobs said. "The recipients are people who don't have access to preventative dental care and often let necessary emergency problems go untreated. This is a worthwhile effort that provides care for so many people."

The free clinic funding grants also support medical treatment centers where patients can receive free medical treatment from volunteer medical professionals. Six new free clinics have opened in the state since 2005, resulting in part from Blue Cross Blue Shield grants, with two more scheduled to open later this year. Grant dollars also have helped clinics meet urgent needs, such as purchasing medications, while allowing others to expand services like dental care.

The Tri-County Dental Health Council can be contacted at 248/559-7767 or at tdhc@sbcglobal.net. Or visit their website at: <http://www.dentalhealthcouncil.org>

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