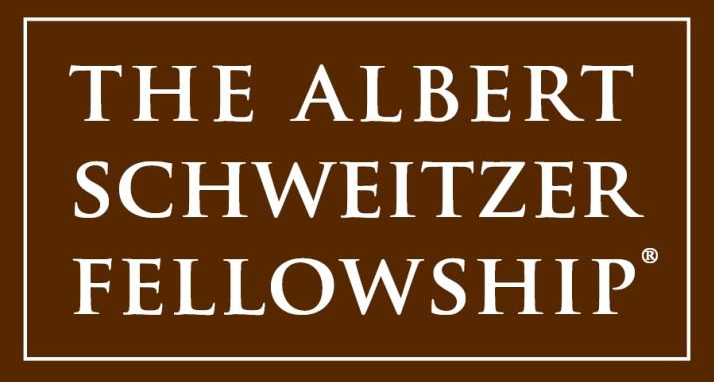


Lasting Impressions: Oral Health Education for Older Adults

Gabrielle Jackson and Leilah Langston
NC Albert Schweitzer Fellows 2013-2014
University of North Carolina School of Dentistry



PROJECT DESCRIPTION and GOALS

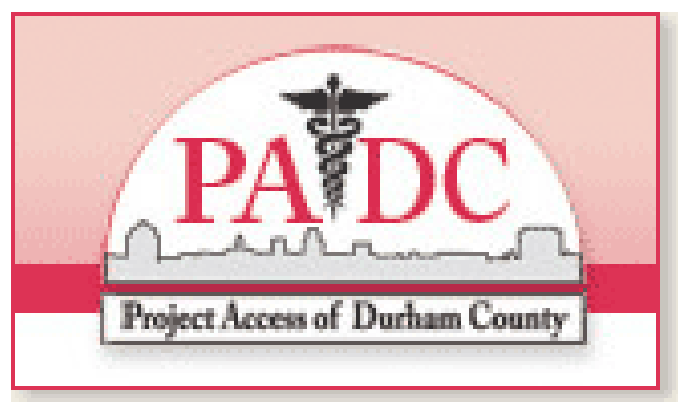
The Fellows worked to improve oral health among older adults in the Triangle area by providing general oral exams and educational workshops. The ultimate goal was to decrease the incidence of dental disease in the older adult population through interactive sessions that show how important oral health is to total body health and the role of nutrition.

RESULTS

- 127 participants participated in the classes
 - 31 from JJ Henderson
 - 96 from Project Access
- 56 participants from Project Access successfully completed the classes and are now in the process of being seen by a volunteer dentist.
 - 35 of the participants are brushing twice a day and flossing one a day
 - 54 are checking for new or suspicious lesions on a monthly basis
 - All are using prevention dry mouth strategies
 - 47 participants have had dental screening appointments and their treatment needed identified
- \$15,683 (from 7/1/13-3/31/14) worth of dental care was provided at no cost to 23 patients. Dental services will continue to be offering to the remaining participants.

SUSTAINABILITY

The educational series will continue on a as a bi-annual course conducted at Lincoln Community Health Center in Durham, NC and Project Access will provide free dental services to those who successful complete the course. The project will be sustained by the Fellows and UNC School of Dentistry students. The Schweitzer Fellowship provided sustainability funding for end of session dinners.



SERVICES OFFERED:

- Head and neck oral cancer screenings
- Fluoride varnish application
- Donated dental care (upon completion of 6 classes)

We provided participants with oral health education that related specifically to the most common systemic diseases found within this population including diabetes and high blood pressure. Our goal was to promote oral health lifestyle changes that ultimately improves the patients’ overall health status and adequately prepares them to be able to better care for their mouths before receiving the donated dental care services.

The services offered include: simple and surgical extractions, silver and tooth-colored fillings, routine cleanings, complex cleanings, partials (minus the lab fees), crowns and x-rays.



Acknowledgements – The Fellows would like to thank the Albert Schweitzer Fellowship, BCBSNC Foundation, Sally Wilson and Krystal Holman of Project Access of Durham County, Joyce Briggs of JJ Henderson and DHA, and Lincoln Community Health Center. They would also like to thank UNC faculty advisors, Dr. Samuelson and Dr. Chen, for their guidance as well as Dr. Eric Rivera for his participation.