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Allina Health grants \$1,000 to support Pierce County dental program
Services provided to uninsured, low-income residents

RIVER FALLS, Wis. (March 25, 2013) — Allina Health recently made a \$1,000 contribution to the Pierce County Public Health Department. The funds were designated to support the health department's new partnership with Southside Community Health Services, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit that will provide dental services to uninsured, low-income residents of the county.

"Southside is a federally qualified health center with a mobile dental van," explained Sue Galoff, Director of the Pierce County Health Department. "The grant from Allina Health will help cover the cost of getting the van to Pierce County."

Galoff went on to explain that the van will provide services not only patients with BadgerCare, who often struggle to find a dental provider, but also those without any dental insurance at all. Southside provides services on a sliding fee scale, meaning that those with the least income are charged the least.

"We know that oral health is a key component of overall health," said Heather Logelin, Allina Health's Director of Community Engagement in Western Wisconsin. "We are pleased to support this new partnership, improving access to dental services for uninsured and low-income individuals in our region."

The \$1,000 contribution was funded through Allina's charitable contributions program, which provides support to organizations working to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and was recommended by a committee of River Falls Area Hospital employees.

Representatives gathered for the recent check presentation included (L to R) Deb Callow, RN, Board of Health; Jon Aubart, Board of Health; Katie Bartko, RD, Public Health Department; Greg Place, Board of Health; Sue Galoff, Director, Public Health Department; Ron Bartels, Board of Health; David Miller, Allina Health; Ruth Wood, Board of Health; David Woeste, MD, Board of Health; Michael Kahlow, Board of Health; and Heather Logelin, Allina Health.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment with the mobile dental van during an upcoming trip to Pierce County, call Southside Community Health Services at 612-822-9030.

About Allina Health

Allina Health is dedicated to the prevention and treatment of illness and enhancing the greater health of individuals, families and communities throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin. A not-for-profit health care system, Allina Health cares for patients from beginning to end-of-life through its 90+ clinics, 11 hospitals, 15 pharmacies, specialty care centers and specialty medical services that provide hospice care, oxygen and home medical equipment, and emergency medical transportation services. Learn more at allinahealth.org.