

Bowling for dollars for dental outreach

By Sue Tiffin
Staff writer

Bowlers at The Fast Lane in Minden were out for more than high scores on April 26.

The lanes were filled with supporters raising funds for Haliburton County's Volunteer Dental Outreach (VDO).

Since May 2011, the VDO has seen 414 patients, held 2,458 appointments and donated \$887,524.62 of dental care to those in need.

But there are still 47 people on the waiting list, and seven of those patients are high priority.

So the community stepped into bowling shoes and took to the lanes at a bowl-a-thon fundraiser that raised more than \$5,000 for the VDO. The money will support the purchase of a digital Panorex machine that allows for clear photos of a patient's entire mouth.

"I'm thrilled and amazed," said VDO board member and dental office manager Lisa Kerr of the support the bowl-a-thon received. "It's a lot more inclusive than our golf tournament, because anyone can bowl."

Kerr credited VDO board member Mark Arike for organizing the event.

"As someone who has organized three bowl-a-thons for another local organization, I already knew this could be a powerful fundraising tool," said Arike. "It's a fun family-orientated activity that brings people together in the community, and by doing so, raises further awareness of how our volunteers are providing much-needed dental services to those in need."

Arike gave special thanks to owners of Fast Lane Bowling Gord and Sheila Pitcher, Canadian Tire, and Tim Horton's, for their support and donations.

"I'm blown away by the generosity of all our bowlers and volunteers."



Photos by Sue Tiffin

Above: Five-year-old Rachel Aldom bowled with the lucky pink ball at the VDO bowlathon fundraiser. Right: The Volunteer Dental Outreach bowlathon raised more than \$5000 to help continue serving families in need of dental care.





Rotary smiles at VDO

The members of the Rotary Club of Haliburton, from left Brian Nash, Maureen O'Hara, Mark Dennys, Dorothy Menton, Brian Menton, David Zilstra and Lance Edwards presented a \$2,500 cheque to the Volunteer Dental Outreach board of directors Mark Arike, Janis Parker, Bill Kerr, Lisa Kerr, Kathy Purc, Melanie Aldom, Sandra Slauenwhite-Box and Brigitte Gebauer. This money will pay for dental equipment. To date (May 5), the VDO has provided \$900,228 worth of free dental care to 414 patients and have offered 2,488 appointments to low income residents in Haliburton County.

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