

JOIN Everyone for Veterans

IN SUPPORTING OUR HEROES



Less than **15%** of the veterans enrolled in the VA health care system qualify for dental benefits.

U.S. COAST GUARD VETERAN, JAMI
WITH UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
DENTAL STUDENT, DONNA

The VA provides dental care only to veterans with a 100% disability rating, former POWs, and those with certain other conditions. This leaves millions of veterans in chronic pain and poor health, many struggling daily with infection and the systemic effects of untreated dental issues, leading to declining health, depression, and low self-esteem.

For these veterans, even sliding-scale clinics are out of reach, because those clinics are often limited to emergency care alone. Even those who purchase VA dental insurance face high out-of-pocket costs, with coverage that rarely supports a full treatment plan.

While the need spans our nation, we've seen that the most profound impact happens locally. When dental societies take the lead in serving veterans, they bring crucial care to their communities and inspire others to join in, creating a ripple effect felt across the nation. We invite you to be part of this mission, lifting up veterans who have served us all and helping meet a pressing, often-overlooked need.

WHO WE SERVE

Our program serves veterans facing financial hardship who have completed at least one enlistment period (with the exception of combat veterans) and have been honorably discharged. We also extend our services to spouses of qualified veterans, recognizing their invaluable role in supporting our service members both physically and emotionally.

We understand that not all veterans are immediately ready to engage in our program. To ensure a positive experience for dental teams, we carefully screen participants, ensuring respect and adherence to schedules. We communicate closely with participating dentists to monitor attendance and maintain clear guidelines for communication and no-shows, ensuring smooth and respectful interactions for all involved.



COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL CARE

Participating dentists offer veterans a fresh start by providing one-time, comprehensive dental care pro bono. This includes an initial examination and any necessary treatments identified during that exam. Once this treatment plan is completed, veterans assume responsibility for any future dental care.

This approach goes beyond addressing immediate needs by eliminating infection and chronic pain, re-

storing proper chewing function, and enhancing appearance. Our focus on comprehensive care helps break the cycle of "quick fixes" and offers veterans a true path to oral health renewal.

All treatments are provided in the comfort of the dentist's own office and can be integrated into the doctor's regular schedule.

COMPREHENSIVE DENTAL TREATMENT GOALS

1

ELIMINATE
INFLAMMATION
AND INFECTIONS

2

ESTABLISH
ADEQUATE
FUNCTION

3

ESTABLISH
ADEQUATE
ESTHETICS

CASE STUDY

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

— at a glance —

WHERE ARE THEY?	IOWA CITY, IA
WHAT YEAR DID THEY START?	2017
# OF VETERANS/SPOUSES HELPED	35
\$ OF SERVICES DONATED	OVER \$70,000

In 2017, the University of Iowa College of Dentistry officially partnered with Everyone for Veterans thanks to the vision of private dentist Dr. Mindy Richtsmeier. Dr. Richtsmeier, a former E4V board member, saw an opportunity to connect fourth-year dental students with veterans in need. She collaborated with Clinical Associate Professor Dr. Rick Williamson, who later also served on E4V's board, to bring the idea to life.

Since then, the dental school has provided over \$70,000 in donated care to more than 35 veterans and their spouses. In addition to clinical care, the students lead an annual letter-writing campaign to dental school alumni, encouraging them to join the mission and expand the reach of this impactful work. This partnership not only supports veterans but also inspires the next generation of dentists to give back.



VIETNAM PURPLE HEART VETERAN
JERRY WITH UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
DENTAL STUDENT CRAIG



4. FOLLOW-UP & FUTURE CARE

After treatment, E4V collects feedback and closes the case. Veterans may return as paying patients, and your clinic can take on new veterans when ready.

3. SUPPORT & USE OF BENEFITS

E4V staff supports your team throughout the process. Any veteran benefits or state assistance may be used to help complete care.

STEP-BY-STEP THROUGH THE PROGRAM

2. PRO-BONO CARE BY DENTAL STUDENTS

Senior dental students, supervised by faculty, provide free comprehensive care to approved veterans at your school's clinic. The number of veterans treated depends on your availability and budget.

1. VETERAN SCREENING & EXPECTATIONS

Everyone for Veterans (E4V) recruits and screens veterans. Each veteran signs an agreement that outlines program expectations, including communication, oral hygiene, and appointment policies.

THE IMPACT

1. Students have a better understanding of veterans. This includes a better understanding of homelessness, poverty, living with mental health, and suicide prevention. The suicide rate is 1.5 times higher than the general public in the veteran population. The WA Department of Health now requires a one-time 3 hr. Suicide Prevention Course for licensure.
2. Your dental school is generating dentists who can and will improve the lives of veterans anywhere in the country.
3. Your school will have an exemplary veteran care program to show other U.S. dental schools.
4. Last but not least, you are contributing to improving the lives of veterans.

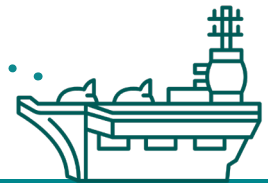
By partnering with Dental Schools across the nation, Everyone for Veterans can provide even more accessible dental care to veterans, while also giving dental students vital experience. This gives our veterans the care they need and provides students with a better education and understanding of veterans' unique situations.

PROGRAM FUNDING

We understand that securing funding is essential for sustaining and growing your veteran dental care program. Everyone for Veterans is here to support you along the way. Many of our current dental school partners have successfully funded their initiatives through creative and community-driven approaches. Below are some proven strategies:

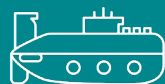
- **Alumni & Student Fundraising** Engage alumni and organize student-led fundraisers to connect with donors who are passionate about supporting veterans.
- **Support from Dental Manufacturers** Many dental supply companies and manufacturers are eager to back veteran-focused initiatives through product donations or sponsorships.
- **Grants from Foundations** Seek funding from local and national foundations that prioritize health, oral health, or veteran services—these organizations are often strong partners for this type of work.

Everyone for Veterans can help guide your team in identifying and pursuing these opportunities to ensure long-term program success.



Tau Sigma Military Dental Club

The Tau Sigma Military Dental Club at the University of Iowa School of Dentistry hosts an annual letter-writing campaign to support E4V. Their goal? To connect 150 dentist across the state with our mission, urging them to lend their skills and time to serve veterans in their local communities.



"Our general and specialty clinics are honored to be of service to those who have served our country."

-DR. GARY CHIDO, FORMER DEAN, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY



"Dr. Cheng's program has provided access to care for needy veterans throughout the country. I am impressed by how she has inspired her dental colleagues, dental students, and community members to get more involved, and we believe her program will inspire other programs to begin."

-DR. DANIEL J. KLEMMEDSON, 2020 ADA PRESIDENT

"We find that when veterans seek out dental care in our student clinics it's almost always a win-win situation. Veterans, like all of the patients in our clinics, receive excellent care... and students get to work with patients who are appreciative and very dependable."

-MICHAEL KANELIS, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY, CLASS OF 2020



**A
WORD
FROM THE
FRONT LINES** TESTIMONIALS

"It's very gratifying to welcome veterans of all ages to our dental clinics because it's our way of thanking them for their tremendous service to this country. They are also some of our best patients because they are incredibly punctual and respectful. Students love working with them and there's often a special relationship that develops between vets and our students."

**-ANN SYNAN, PATIENT REPRESENTATIVE,
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY**

"It's a very limiting factor in social situations and has caused me to avoid people. Being able to smile makes a big difference in your interactions. I can now smile broadly when meeting people, with no fear. It's a liberating feeling."

-RAY SCHMICK, U.S. NAVY VETERAN

