

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **Dental Van Gives De Paul Treatment Centers Clients Something to Smile About**

*Portland, OR - February 1, 2011* - Thanks to a new partnership between De Paul Treatment Centers and Medical Teams International, the Mobile Dental Van made its second visit to De Paul's downtown facility on Tuesday. While dental work is not what most people think about in relation to drug and alcohol treatment, the Mobile Dental Van was appreciated by many of the residential clients at De Paul who do not have medical insurance or access to regular dental care.

Inside the dental van, the Medical Teams International team is efficiently seeing clients. One is having x-rays taken in the front of the van, while the dentist, Dr. Toothaker, performs procedures on another in the rear of the van. Krista Handy, the Mobile Dental Clinic Manager, adroitly handles the x-ray machine and takes phone calls as she describes the Medical Teams International Dental Van program. Krista has worked with Medical Teams International for four years. "I love it!" she says as she calls for the next client. Eleven of De Paul's residential clients were able to take advantage of dental services with Medical Teams International on Tuesday. Krista notes that the services provided are "everything from fillings to extractions".

Medical Teams International has a fleet of 11 vans that operate in the Pacific Northwest, from Seattle/Tacoma to Medford. The organization partners with nonprofits, schools, and churches to provide dental services to those who would not otherwise be able to afford them- the uninsured, low income and homeless. Krista notes that Medical Teams International chooses to work with people in treatment as they realize that these people have made a commitment to changing their lives for the better.

This mindset is well aligned with the outlook at De Paul Treatment Centers. De Paul's mission is to create freedom from drug and alcohol addiction, and the organization's philosophy is that all people have within them the innate strength and capacity to recover. De Paul has operated in Portland for over 30 years and works with a wide range of people seeking treatment; many do not have health insurance and some are homeless. De Paul's downtown location provides residential and outpatient alcohol and drug treatment for adults, the De Paul Youth and Family Center in NE Portland serves the youth population, and a satellite office in Hillsboro provides outpatient treatment to adults in Washington County.

Back in the van, Dr. Toothaker prepares to begin working on the next client. Dr. Toothaker has been volunteering with Medical Teams International for seven years. "I try to do two days a month, rain or shine," he says with a smile behind his surgical mask. He then returns to patiently discussing dental hygiene with his patient before he begins filling a cavity.

### **About De Paul Treatment Centers:**

De Paul Treatment Centers provides over 2,000 men, women, youth, and families with substance use disorder treatment annually. De Paul's mission is to create freedom from drug and alcohol addiction, and the organization uses comprehensive, multi-disciplinary, culturally appropriate, and evidence-based practices that address the needs of the whole person, family, and community. De Paul views addiction as a complex, chronic and treatable disease. De Paul serves adult and youth clients for both residential and outpatient services at three locations in the Portland Metro area.

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