

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Federal Hill Smiles Donates Dentistry to the People of the Dominican Republic**

**Baltimore, Md.**—After nearly two years of planning and fund raising, Dr. Denise Markoff led her team at Federal Hill Smiles to the Dominican Republic where they donated their services for free dental clinics organized by Esperanza International and Smiles for Hope last November.

“I have an unbelievably dedicated team,” said Dr. Markoff of the office-wide effort. “Every member of my team donated their vacation time and worked tirelessly to raise funds for this trip.”

The team spent more than a week in Santo Domingo and San Pedro to complete extractions, fillings and cleanings in dental clinics that were rotated with hands-on teaching sessions with dental students from the University of San Pedro. “One of our goals is to teach the dental students the value of working for the poor,” said Dr. Markoff. “So the dental clinics will continue when we return home.”

“We were averaging about 120 patients a day for the whole group, some of the highest numbers they’ve ever had,” explains Dr. Markoff, who estimated that her team averaged 45 patients a day. “Of course, these clinics are highly efficient because Esperanza International manages the patient flow so well.”

Approximately 40 dentists, hygienists and other team members from Connecticut, Tennessee and Utah made the trip to the Dominican Republic. One team was even able to perform implants for a long-term case, a rare occurrence because it is so difficult to perform with only basic tools. “It was high energy and we saw unbelievable team work,” Dr. Markoff explained.

Federal Hill Smiles made the commitment to attend the good will trip at the 12th Crown Council annual event in Florida in January 2007. From there, they continued to raise funds by participating in the Crown Council’s Smiles for Life campaign. Dr. Markoff offered discounted teeth whitening and donated 100 percent of the proceeds to charity through the Smiles for Life Foundation. Some of that money was earmarked for the trip, but as Dr. Markoff explained, “we also sold an amazing amount of toothpaste, and our patients were very supportive.”

The Smiles for Life Foundation is the children's charity organization of the Crown Council. Each year from March 1 to June 30, Federal Hill Smiles participates in the Smiles for Life campaign, offering professional tooth whitening for \$285 and donating 100% of the proceeds to children's charities across the United States and Canada.

Esperanza International works to free children and their families from poverty through initiatives that generate income, education and health. One way Esperanza connects with clients is by organizing a volunteer corps of international dental workers who offer a mix of free clinics to the local population and education for local students.

Esperanza International partnered with Smiles for Hope, a nonprofit founded by Roy and Frances Hammond that provides ongoing dental outreach expeditions for dentists, their teams and families, to produce November's trip.

Charity has been a part of Dr. Markoff's life since she launched her own practice in 1985. She has partnered with Head Start, Job Corps and the Donated Dental Services. She is an active member in the Crown Council's annual Smiles for Life campaign and anticipates returning to volunteer on future Smiles for Hope missions to provide free services and education. To learn more about Federal Hill Smiles, visit [www.federalhillsmiles.com](http://www.federalhillsmiles.com) or call 410-727-3388.

For more information about Esperanza International, visit <http://esperanza.org>. Details about Smiles for Hope may be found at <http://smilesforhope.org>.

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