



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Providing Smiles and Dignity: Volunteer Ministry Center Announces New Mutually Beneficial Partnership with LMU Dental Program

VMC's longstanding community Dental Clinic, powered by local dentists, professional dental students, and volunteers, is expanding services through new clinical internships. The clinic's goal is to provide dental care and treatment to the homeless and low income of Knox County while also providing important clinical experience to further the education and future careers of LMU dental students.

Knoxville, TN - January 27, 2026, Volunteer Ministry Center's (VMC) Dental Clinic, providing services since 1998 to individuals experiencing homelessness in addition to low-income residents of Knox County, is excited to announce a new mutually beneficial partnership with Lincoln Memorial University (LMU). In January, the first class to begin Community Based Dental Education (CBDE) Rotations at LMU started serving with VMC's Dental Clinic supervised by House Mountain Dentistry's, Dr. John Osborn. This first-ever VMC partnership includes multiple professional dental students who are benefitting from the clinical internship by gaining weekly supervised clinic hours to further their experience and future careers while also providing critical dental care to the population that VMC serves.

The VMC Dental Clinic offers fillings, extractions, cleanings, and the provision and repair of dentures. These services not only address dental pain and improve overall health, but also



empower patients to take steps toward stability, including seeking employment and permanent housing. This new partnership allows VMC to serve students in their education while also providing critical life-changing care to the unhoused and low-income residents of our community. Learn more about the VMC Dental Clinic at <https://www.vmcinc.org/dental-clinic>.

The VMC Dental Clinic is staffed primarily by dental professionals who volunteer their time and skills, therefore, hours and days of service may vary. The clinic is typically open on Mondays and Fridays but may also be open other weekdays when a provider is available. Please call to verify clinic hours: 865-934-1746. Services are free to eligible patients who are Knox County, Tennessee residents and who meet HUD income guidelines for “Extremely Low” income or are considered literally homeless under HUD standards. ENDS

For Further Information

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Notes to Editors

About Volunteer Ministry Center

Volunteer Ministry Center (VMC) is a nonprofit, located in the heart of Knoxville, working to prevent and end homelessness. VMC was established in 1987 and offers specialized services to neighbors experiencing homelessness and those struggling to sustain housing.

VMC provides services through multiple programs such as The Resource Center, Street Outreach, and The Bush Family Refuge. The goal for all clients is ultimately housing. Using high-quality case management and the *Housing First* approach, VMC assists neighbors into permanent supportive housing and provides the coordination of resources needed to prevent homelessness.

VMC has helped over 1,499 neighbors find freedom from the streets. You can learn more about VMC’s life-changing programs at vmcinc.org.