



NEWS RELEASE

From: Piedmont Virginia Dental Health Foundation
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Date: July 22, 2016

Dr. Hartigan Comes Home to Martinsville *Dentist Returns to Community Dental Clinic*

It seems like “old home week” for Dr. James Hartigan.

He remembers the opening of the Community Dental Clinic in Uptown Martinsville because he was there, as the first dentist at the Clinic on Fayette Street.

Now, 10 years later, he was returned to the Clinic, operated by the Piedmont Virginia Dental Health Foundation.

The Clinic offers reduced fee dental services for the poor or uninsured in the community, providing nearly 5,000 patient visits last year.

Dr. Hartigan has been interested in public health for years. After his graduation from the VCU School of Dentistry, he served in the National Health Service Corps in northwest Kansas and southside Virginia.

He then settled in Franklin County where he was in a private dental practice. After 16 years, he decided to return to public health. In 2000, he joined the Virginia Department of Health and was dental director of the West Piedmont District based in Martinsville. Then, he was a dentist for the Virginia Department of Corrections.

“I tried to retire,” recalls Dr. Hartigan, “but it did not last long.” He joined PATHS, where he supervised dental clinics in Danville and Boydton. PATHS is a nonprofit organization that provides healthcare to residents of southside.

“Now, I’m back at home,” he says. “I’m excited to return to work with the students from VCU and to treat patients in Martinsville and Henry County. “This affords me the opportunity to influence the views of students toward understanding the dental health needs of an entire community.” Fourth year students at the VCU School of Dentistry come to Martinsville to provide dental care at the Clinic.

Dr. Hartigan replaces Dr. Amanda Meade, who is moving with her husband, also a dentist, to an opportunity in private practice in North Carolina. “Dr. Meade has been an excellent mentor of the dental students and has provided outstanding leadership at the Clinic. We offer a high standard of dental care,” said Dr. Mark Crabtree, president of the Foundation.

Dr. Hartigan appreciates Dr. Meade’s service and the volunteer service of the dentists in the community. “We are fortunate to have so many dentists in private practice who give their time to work with students and help those in need in our community,” he said.

A native of the Roanoke area, Dr. Hartigan is a graduate of the University of Virginia. He has participated in numerous Mission of Mercy (MOM) clinics and has made 11 mission trips to Africa to provide dental services.

He is married to his high school sweetheart, the former Debbie Bradford of Vinton. They have a daughter in Indiana and two grandchildren.

The Piedmont Virginia Dental Health Foundation depends on financial support from the community to operate the Clinic. “The Harvest Foundation has been our financial partner from the beginning, and we would not be open today without their support and the donations from individuals and businesses in the community,” said Crabtree.

For more information about the Foundation, visit www.piedmontdental.org.

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