

Proof that FTG Works!

Filling the Gap Dental Program (FTG) has proven to be successful.

NAMI JEFFCO, Jefferson Center for Mental Health, dentists in our community and our financial supporters have all worked together to make this program a success.

The real proof is that FTG has provided No Cost dental services to hundreds of people in our community who suffer from a severe and persistent mental illness.

The FTG Dental Program has received numerous awards from state and local entities as well as the Channel 7 "Everyday Hero Award" for the outstanding services the program provides.

The Mission of Filling the Gap Dental Program

To provide No Cost dental services to the underserved people in our community who struggle with severe and persistent mental illnesses.

The FTG Dental Program does not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, religion, ethnic group or social class.

Support

Filling the Gap Dental Program

If you would like to help Filling the Gap financially, make your check payable to NAMI Jeffco, FTG and mail your tax deductible contribution to:

**NAMI Jeffco
Filling the Gap
PO Box 1921
Arvada, CO 80001**

Your gift will help us provide dental services to individuals coping with mental illness.



Filling the Gap Dental Program

NAMI Jeffco
Filling the Gap Dental Program
303.420.2006 — Donna
303.432.5400 — JCMH
E-mail: ftgdental@msn.com



FILLING THE GAP DENTAL PROGRAM

A Program of the
National Alliance on Mental Illness Jefferson County
(NAMI JEFFCO)

Serving Jefferson, Gilpin and Clear Creek Counties

Filling the Gap Dental Program (FTG) is a unique program of NAMI JEFFCO providing No Cost quality dental services to adults with severe and persistent mental illness living in Jefferson, Gilpin or Clear Creek County.

Affiliated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness
(NAMI) and NAMI Colorado

NAMI JEFFCO

Filling the Gap Dental Program

The National Alliance on Mental Illness Jefferson County (NAMI JEFFCO) is a non-profit grassroots organization of families, friends and consumers dedicated to improving the lives of people with severe mental illnesses through support, education, self-help and advocacy. We are affiliated with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and NAMI Colorado.

What is Filling the Gap Dental Program Whom Does It Serve

Filling the Gap Dental Program (FTG) was developed in 1999 by members of NAMI JEFFCO after learning from the case managers at Jefferson Center for Mental Health (JCMH) the great need for such a program. The mission of FTG is to provide NO COST dental services to adults who struggle with severe and persistent mental illnesses who live in Jefferson, Gilpin or Clear Creek County.

Individuals participating in Filling the Gap program usually cannot afford even the most basic dental care. Their income, based on SSI and SSDI, averages \$600 a month. Their dental needs are DESPERATE. Prior to FTG, most of their dental care addressed EMERGENCY situations only.

FTG works in cooperation with Jefferson Center for Mental Health and dentists in our community. The program pays dental fees for services which include x-rays, cleanings, fillings, root canals, crowns, extractions, partials and dentures. FTG clients are grateful to have access to free dental care especially in cases where pain is an issue.

Factors that Contribute to Poor Dental Health in this Specific Population

- Exaggerated fears of dental services
- Difficulty in developing and maintaining good oral hygiene skills
- Tooth decay due to medications and heavy smoking
- Problems organizing time and keeping track of appointments
- Poor nutrition
- Limited finances allow nothing for dental care

How the Program Works

FTG volunteers work to gain financial support for the program through donations from individuals, businesses, organizations and churches as well as from grants.

99% of all FTG funding goes directly to pay dental fees. FTG has no paid staff.

The program receives no government funding.

FTG works with dentists in our community who provide their services at a 50% discount. This allows us to serve twice the number of people with the same funding resources.

FTG maintains a list of qualified applicants and connects people to dentists as space becomes available. We ensure that transportation and support is given for appointments.

FTG staff maintains contact with dentists regarding each person's treatment plan.

Working together we can make a difference



Working together, our NAMI JEFFCO volunteers, Jefferson Center for Mental Health, dentists in the community and financial supporters make it possible for FTG to help people be free from dental pain and gives them a reason to smile again.

Qualifications required to participate in FTG:

1. Must be an adult
2. Have a diagnosis of a severe and persistent mental illness
3. Live in Jefferson, Gilpin or Clear Creek County

Applications are available at all JCMH offices or call Barbara Burmeister at 303.432.5400

Mental illness is a medical disorder just like cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. It affects people of all ages, races, religions, sexes, and socioeconomic status. In Colorado it is estimated that over 200,000 people are affected by mental illness.

Mental illness is NOT the result of personal weakness, lack of character, or a poor upbringing.