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Free dental care brings smiles to CT

Keith Kountz

Going to the dentist is something many people probably take for granted.

The fact is many people don't have the resources to take care of their teeth properly.

On Feb. 18, some of those in need of emergency care got help in Stratford.

Many of the people who came to Lighthouse Dental Care hadn't seen a dentist in more than a year. They were all grateful that the office's two dentists and two hygienists were offering free treatment.



"I've had excruciating pain, but being on un-employment, trying to manage the bills, take care of the kids, I've put myself on the back burner," says Melanie Palmer of Bridgeport.

Palmer was just one of the 70 or so patients that Dr. Mark Samuels and Dr. Joseph Jarmon were treating free of charge.

For Samuels, whose father was also a dentist in Stratford, giving back is just the right thing to do.

"It's a great thing, it really is. Obviously we're doing something for people who really need it in a time of recession, but it's good for us as well, it feels great," says Samuels.

Much of the work done today were emergency procedures such as extractions, fillings and fixing broken teeth.

Of course there were those who only needed cleanings.

"It's something, they're very, very good and she did a very good job, very nice," says Paul Desiderioscioli of Bridgeport.

Nicholas Rosa told News 8 he'd been suffering for six months after breaking a tooth. After seeing the dentist he says he couldn't have been more satisfied with the treatment.

"I could smile before, but there was some pain, now I can smile without pain, but a whole lot of gratitude," says Rosa.

The folks at Lighthouse say things went so well. They hope others dentists in the area will follow their lead and offer a free day of treatment, something that would no doubt lead to more smiles across Connecticut.