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APPLE TREE DENTAL ACCEPTS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD FROM NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

(Mounds View, MN; April 29, 2024) — Apple Tree Dental is pleased to announce that they received the Association for State & Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD) **2024 M. Dean Perkins Distinguished Service Award**. The M. Dean Perkins Distinguished Service Award honors organizations that provide outstanding contributions to dental public health. This honor was awarded to Apple Tree Dental at the National Oral Health Conference in St. Louis, Missouri, on Monday, April 15th, 2024.

Julia Wacloff, RDH, MS, the immediate past-president of ASTDD, nominated Apple Tree Dental for this award, and presented it to Apple Tree’s representatives at the National Oral Health Conference. Dr. Michael J. Helgeson, Apple Tree’s CEO and co-founder; Deb Jacobi, Apple Tree’s Policy Director and a dental hygienist; and Dr. Lyubov Slashcheva, Apple Tree’s Research Director, were all in attendance at the ceremony. Jess Flotterud, Apple Tree’s Chief Strategic Officer, was at the National Oral Health Conference but was unable to attend the ceremony.



Deborah Jacobi, Dr. Lyubov Slashcheva, and Dr. Michael Helgeson

Apple Tree Dental’s mission is to overcome barriers to oral health. The work of the ASTDD and Apple Tree Dental are closely aligned. During the acceptance of the award, Deb Jacobi praised the ASTDD for their leadership in dentistry and credited them for facilitating some of Apple Tree’s networking with other like-minded individuals and organizations. “Through ASTDD, I’ve had the privilege to connect and collaborate with leaders in other states, learning from each other,” said Jacobi.

Dr. Helgeson also spoke at the award ceremony, accepting the award on behalf of Apple Tree’s more than 300 team members, including the Board of Directors. He highlighted some of Apple Tree’s biggest efforts in recent years, including Apple Tree’s Community Collaborative Practice model, and medical-dental integration programs. “Apple Tree’s story starts with the seeds of an inspiring mission, takes root when passionate supporters create a shared vision, and bears fruit when local communities plant and sustain their own apple orchards far and wide,” Dr. Helgeson said.



APPLE TREE DENTAL

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About Apple Tree Dental

Founded in 1985, Apple Tree Dental's mission is to overcome barriers to oral health. Apple Tree provides comprehensive preventive and restorative care at nine Centers for Dental Health throughout Minnesota. Using telehealth and mobile dental offices, Apple Tree also delivers on-site care at preschools and schools, group homes, and a variety of senior living facilities using the industry's latest technologies in collaboration with 150 community partners. With special expertise in pediatric, geriatric, and special needs populations, Apple Tree is nationally recognized for its pioneering approach to integrating dental care as part of overall health and well being. For more information, visit www.appletreedental.org.

About ASTDD

The Association for State and Territorial Dental Directors is a national non-profit organization representing the directors and staff of state/territorial public health agency programs for oral health. It was organized in 1948 and is one of 20 affiliates of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO). ASTDD formulates and promotes the establishment of national dental public health policy, assists state/territorial dental programs in the development and implementation of programs and policies for the prevention of oral diseases; builds awareness and strengthens dental public health professionals' knowledge and skills by developing position papers and policy statements; provides information on oral health to health officials and policy makers, and conducts conferences for the dental public health community.