



NORTHWEST MICHIGAN
Health Services Inc

BENZONIA PANORAMIC DENTAL X-RAY – CASE FOR SUPPORT

WHAT DO WE DO?

Northwest Michigan Health Services is a non-profit community health center with a mission to provide quality healthcare through a wide range of health services to the people in our communities, always serving with dignity and compassion.

Northwest's oral health services at the Benzie Community Resource Center began in December 2017 and since then has grown from a single, mobile dental chair to four dental operatories with 2 full-time dentists and 2 hygienists that service 246 children, 874 adults and 221 seniors (1,341 total).

Even with the expansion in staff and facilities, the community's need is overwhelming. Poverty is most visibly apparent in the condition of one's teeth, and thus the high population of children and adults living in poverty in Benzie County creates a high need for oral healthcare. Northwest continues to seek opportunities to improve care and to meet that need.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

Recently, Northwest applied for and received a federal grant to support the remodeling of the clinic, including adding a dental operator and space for a panoramic x-ray. The grant funds have begun paving the way for the expansion of oral health services to meet the community's needs, however, it is not enough to fund both the renovation and procure the x-ray machine.

The digital panoramic dental x-ray machine produces a 2-dimensional x-ray from outside the mouth, using far less radiation than a comparable full mouth intraoral x-ray series. It captures the entire mouth in a single image, including the teeth, upper and lower jaws, and surrounding tissues and structures.

This type of x-ray covers a wider area than a conventional bitewing, periapical full mouth series of x-rays, and can provide valuable information about the sinuses, positioning of teeth and bone abnormalities. It is used to plan treatment for full and partial dentures, extractions and implants, diagnosing advanced periodontal disease, cysts, tumors, oral cancer, impacted wisdom teeth, sinusitis and jaw disorders. Another benefit of panoramic x-rays is that they can be used for very young children, as they offer reduced radiation exposure, are taken from outside the mouth and reduce interpretation errors.

A panoramic x-ray machine costs \$25,645 (Sirona Orthophos E), but the return on your investment is no less than saving lives.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

To find out more about how to donate toward a panoramic x-ray for Northwest's Benzonian dental clinic, please contact Heidi Britton, CEO, at 231-947-1112, or visit our website at <http://www.nmhsi.org/donate/>.



Panoramic x-ray in action at Northwest Michigan Health Services, Shelby Clinic



10767 E. Traverse Hwy Traverse City, MI 49684
6051 Frankfort Hwy., Benzonian, MI 49616



Phone: 231-947-1112
Phone: 231-383-4800



Fax: 231-947-7739
Fax: 231-383-4270