



NORTHWEST MICHIGAN
Health Services Inc

TRAVERSE CITY 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 Traverse City site meet a critical oral health need in the community, serving 298 children, 1,450 adults 446 seniors and 54 veterans in 2018 from the Victors for Veterans program that offers free dental services to vets (2,194 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 the Grand Traverse area creates a high need for oral healthcare. Northwest continues to seek opportunities to improve care and to meet that need.

WHAT DO WE NEED?

In 2017, Northwest received a federal grant to remodel the clinic, adding 2 dental operatories to a total of 6. The grant funds have paved the way for the expansion of oral health services to meet the community's needs, however, they were not enough to allow Northwest to replace its outdated panoramic x-ray.

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.

Northwest has located a gently used panoramic x-ray machine which would cost \$14,000, 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 Traverse City 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



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