
Dr. H. Volunteer Dentist Mississippi

Mississippi

Local Hero: Dr. H.

Dr. H is a Quitman

County native who has been in practice
in Marks, Miss.

(population 1,800), for 34 years. The only dentist in a county with a
population of 10,000, Dr. H volunteered for DDS shortly after the program
started in Mississippi

in 1995. His most recent DDS patient was a young man from his church who had
been in a severe automobile accident. According to Dr. H., when the patient
came home after several months in the hospital, "His mouth basically was a
wreck. To start with, he needed maxillofacial reconstruction to get his jaws
and teeth back to where they were supposed to be." The team coordinated by DDS
included an Alabama lab; Dr. S., an

oral surgeon from Jackson; and Dr. P., a periodontist from Oxford. "Going through
the surgery and restorative work has given him a new lease on life," says Dr.

H. He concludes, "Most of the DDS patients are very appreciative of what we
do. I live in a community where we don't have much third-party insurance
coverage. I saw a need out there to help people who were either
underprivileged, or who didn't have the money to be able to provide the service
for themselves. It gives me satisfaction to restore those people to as good
oral health as we can. It's a way to give back."