



The JDF Footprints



By Exec. Dir. Carolyn D. Jenkins

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Summer is a time for fun, sun, vacations, reunions and family gatherings. We wait for it with anticipation all year and when it gets here, it seems to zoom by.

I hope you've had time to enjoy some special time with family and loved ones. The JDF Team had a great time with family and friends and we're especially happy about meeting our new friends.

We traveled to the Southwestern part of Virginia and participated in the largest free medical event in the United States, RAM. **Remote Area Medical, RAM**, is held annually at the **Wise County Virginia Fairgrounds**. Wise County is nestled high in the spectacular **Blue Ridge Mountains**. The beauty is breathtaking and it almost helps you forget how narrow and curvy the roads near the Fairgrounds are. Almost.

When we reached the Fairgrounds, we didn't see carnival rides. We saw grateful and hardworking people, some who had camped out days in advance, waiting patiently to receive medical care. Wise County is an underserved county. Many people in the county wait all year to receive this medical care because they simply can't afford to go to the doctor on a regular basis.



Pictured above, a makeshift dental supply tent at Wise, RAM. Pictured below, The JDF set up our makeshift Foot Health Fair and distributed foot care supplies.





Pictured above: Hundreds of free dentures were made on the spot in vans like this one.

More than 2000 medical professionals served over the three day weekend. They, along with countless volunteers, church groups and civic organizations, traveled hundreds of miles to help meet the needs of the Wise County residents, **including Virginia Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner.** Hundreds of dentures and glasses were dispensed. In addition to providing free medical care, attendees also received free clothing, shoes, medical training and food.

The JDF team hosted our Foot Health Fair, distributing free shoes and foot care supplies to attendees and many grateful medical professionals. After standing on their feet for two days, the medical professionals needed a little TLC for the tootsies too!

Pictured below: Dr. Claudia Sands is the first DPM to ever serve at Wise RAM. She already plans to return in 2018. Thank you, Dr. Claudia!



Pictured left, dental professionals picking up foot care supplies. Above, attendees who picked up foot care supplies.

Wise RAM is a huge 3-day event held annually in July. **Thank You, Health Wagon** for coordinating this huge outreach!