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To The Community

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Pankey-trained dentists give back to community

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Dr. Keith Phillips, a Pankey Institute-trained dentist who lives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, travels by truck and trailer to each venue hauling enough equipment, instruments and supplies to set up a 10-chair mobile dental clinic.

On Friday and Saturday, January 30 and 31, Phillips, national director of the Pankey Dental Access Days program, will bring his dental triage to Miami for the first time.

"This service delivery is a little unorthodox, but it allows us to go virtually anywhere – in church halls, gyms and recreation centers – wherever there is enough space," said Phillips.

Phillips has been a visiting faculty member at the Pankey Institute on Key Biscayne for many years.

The clinic will be set up at Camillus House and will offer free dental care to more than 200 homeless people in the Miami metropolitan area.

Pankey Dental Access Days program is a first for South Florida.

"This is our way of helping people in need in our community," said Dr. Osvaldo Mayoral, local co-host. "Access to quality dental care is a huge problem that our nation – not just South Florida – faces. Our efforts will certainly bring attention to the critical need for oral health among citizens here in Miami-Dade," he said.

Dr. Rosendo Collazo, director of health services for Camillus House Concern, said staffers will identify 'wait-list' clients – those who have already been screened or who have begun dental services through another program – so Pankey Dental Access Days volunteers can maximize their efforts and expand their service to more clients.

"Giving back to the community is in many ways fulfilling our mission," said Victoria Champion, Director of Development of L.D. Pankey Dental Foundation. "And, it is camaraderie-building for all the Pankey-trained area dentists who are volunteering their time."