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Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center, Apple Tree Dental Awarded for Collaborative Efforts

**Rochester, Minn.** – The Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs (MACMHP) yesterday presented Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center and Apple Tree Dental with its Community Collaboration and Inter-Agency Cooperation – Partnerships award at its annual conference. This award recognizes partnerships that enable organizations to overcome barriers to service delivery and better meet the needs of clients.

“This award is an honor,” said Dave Cook, chief executive officer at Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center. “When our two organizations started this effort, our goal had been to help our clients and their family members who either no longer had a dental treatment option or hadn’t visited a dentist for care. Now we’re at a point where more than 100 Zumbro Valley clients are receiving dental services while hundreds across the community can access professional care for their dental needs.”

According to MACMHP, the two organizations were selected because they are setting an example of collaboration for services that are being well received within their community.

“The relationship with Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center has significantly expanded our reach within Rochester,” said Dr. Michael Helgeson, chief executive officer for Apple Tree Dental. “Since we started in October, we’ve been able to provide dental services to nearly 500 people within the community and had more than 1,200 appointments.”

Mr. Helgeson added that both the number of patients and appointments is increasing each month.

Mr. Cook presented the award to Apple Tree Dental at a luncheon ceremony during the conference on Thursday, September 13. Heather Geerts, clinical director, received the award on behalf of Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center.

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**About Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center**

Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center enhances the quality of life for residents in southeastern Minnesota by serving as a community resource for the understanding and treatment of behavioral health and substance use disorders. The organization collaborates with government agencies, schools, non-profit groups and others to provide programs dedicated to improving the mental health of adults, adolescents and children. Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center is a private, non-profit organization serving Olmsted and Fillmore counties. For more information, visit our Web site at [www.zumbromhc.org](http://www.zumbromhc.org) or call 507-289-2089.

**About Apple Tree Dental**

Apple Tree Dental is a nonprofit dental organization that provides a comprehensive range of dental services for children, families, adults, seniors, long-term care residents and people with disabilities or special needs. Based in the Twin Cities, Apple Tree Dental has clinical programs in Coon Rapids, Fergus Falls, Hawley, Madelia and Rochester, and operates a mobile dentistry program serving more than 120 community sites in 29 Minnesota counties. For information on services provided by Apple Tree Dental's Rochester office, call 507-424-1040. For information on Apple Tree Dental, visit [www.appletreedental.org](http://www.appletreedental.org).

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