



# Ozark Foothills

REGIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**Date:** June 11, 2019

**Subject:** Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation awards \$10,000 grant for teledentistry

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**Caption IDs, left to right:** Russell French, OFRCF board chairman; Felicity Ray, board treasurer; Marie Obourn, board member; Rebeca Pacheco, board member; Karen White, CEO of Missouri Highlands Health Care; Susan Skaggs, board member

Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation, administered by the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission in Poplar Bluff, awarded a \$10,000 grant to Big Springs Medical Association Inc., doing business as Missouri Highlands Health Care. The grant was made possible through the Rural Ozarks Health Initiative, a multi-year grant program provided collaboratively by the Community Foundation of the Ozarks and Missouri Foundation for Health to address priority health issues in communities or regions served by the CFO's rural affiliate foundations.

Grant funds will be used to purchase equipment for Missouri Highlands Health Care's teledentistry program. This equipment will enable dental hygienists and assistants to relay images and data back to an in-clinic dentist who will conduct a virtual examination and develop a treatment plan. Due to the lack of available oral-health professionals in the most rural areas of the Ozark Foothills region, the use of teledentistry equipment will expand access to dentistry services.

Missouri Highlands Health Care was established in 1975 to meet the primary care needs of rural southern Missouri. The nonprofit health care provider's service area now extends to Butler, Carter, Iron, Reynolds, Ripley, Shannon and Wayne Counties. When Missouri Highlands opened a dental clinic in 2002, oral-health services became an integral part of the scope of services offered. Missouri Highlands is the only community health center in the seven-county service area.

Ozark Foothills Regional Community Foundation is the charitable arm of the Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission. Headquartered in Poplar Bluff, OFRCF was established in 2011 to serve the philanthropic needs of the Ozark Foothills region of Butler, Ripley, Carter, Reynolds and Wayne Counties. OFRCF is governed by an 11-member board of directors with representatives from fundholders and each of the five counties in the service area. OFRCF is an affiliate of Springfield-based Community Foundation of the Ozarks.

**Ozarks Foothills Regional Community Foundation**

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