

## Bev Woods, Ontario

Bev Woods is the Superhero of all Superheroes! She championed the Social Responsibility Project called Gift From the Heart over 11 years ago to assist those patients/clients in our communities who could not afford dental hygiene care. She rallied other Registered Independent Dental Hygienists (myself included) to join her in her mission of providing care to individuals who could not afford it or did not qualify for assistance. She started her first GFTH with 16 IDH's and celebrated her 11th GFTH event this April 6/19 with over 150 RDH's and 6 Dental Hygiene Colleges participating nationwide delivering the necessary dental hygiene care that we know will impact the lives of the individuals receiving this care. To date, GFTH, has provided over \$1.2 Million in free dental hygiene care to individuals without limitations. This year's GFTH campaign surpassed previous years with totals of over \$250,000 in free dental hygiene care being provided!! Her Mission, Vision and values is to see that ALL Canadians are receive dental hygiene care as their human right, not a privilege. She would like to see her vision transpire to other Nations. Bev continuously advocates for the underserved/underserviced clients and speaks to organizations to educate them on the increasing need for the necessary oral care. Her energy and passion is endless. I am honoured to be in the same profession with her.

Bev Woods is the founder and CEO of The Gift From the Heart. The Gift from the Heart is a National Organization where dental hygienists, volunteers and corporate partners come together make a difference, enhancing the lives of Canadians by providing NO COST dental hygiene care one day a year. This year the event will be taking place on Saturday April 6th and because of the compassion and tireless efforts of one hygienist this event has been going strong for ten years picking up many volunteers and community partners along the way. Because of Bev, so much awareness is being raised about the barriers to care faced by too many Canadians and thanks to her dedication and efforts hygienists everywhere have united

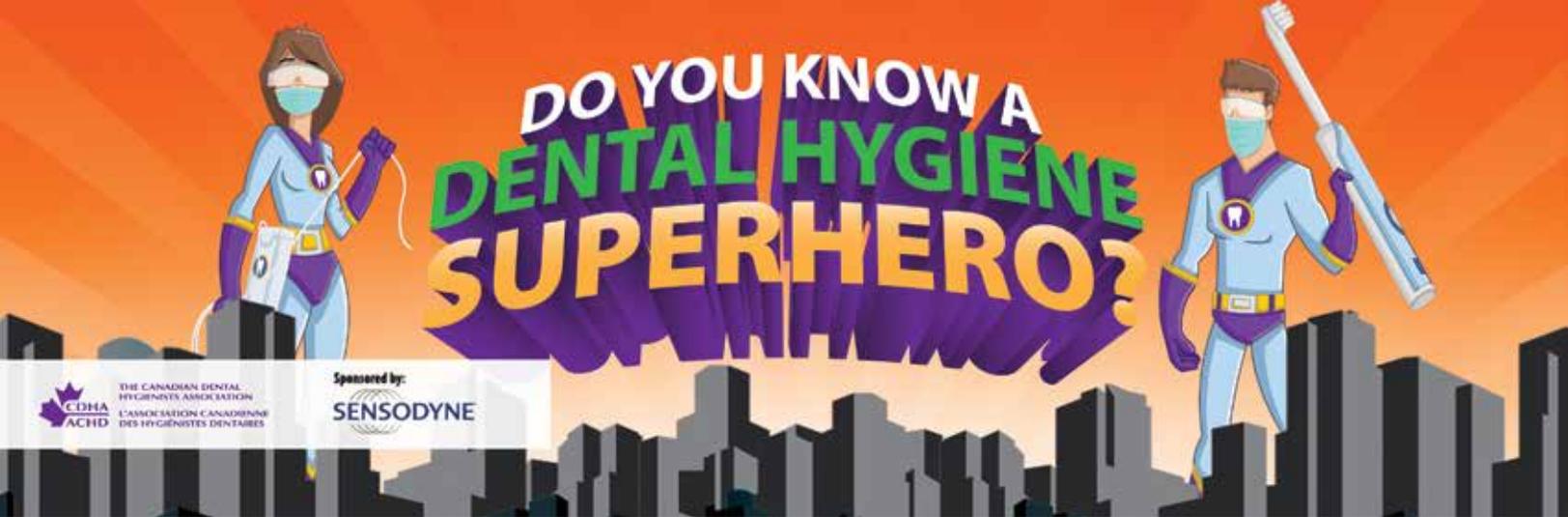


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to make a real difference in the lives of vulnerable individuals across the country. I believe in and admire the vision of Bev Woods and feel she is truly a Dental Hygiene Superhero.

I am not sure if I qualify to submit this nomination but I am going to do it anyways. I think I know this SUPERHERO better than any of you. She is my best friend and wife. Bev does not know the meaning of the word “NO” only “YES”. She is sometimes referred to as the “Energizer Bunny”. I sometimes find myself needing to book an appointment with her just to get her to stop working. Those are my words because Bev never looks at what she does as “work”. Bev is very passionate about making a difference, be it with access to care, affording care, helping a friend, caring for the sick or providing food for those unable to get home for the holidays. She has the biggest HEART I know. She will be a little angry with me for sending this in but I feel she is always hiding behind a mask and sharing the spotlight with so many others she feels are more deserving. When I asked her why, she replied...I have had an amazing career, it's time for others to shine. I disagree! Even if you do not recognize her as your SuperHero...she will always be mine. Thank you.

Bev is so passionate about the dental hygiene profession. The time and energy she gives to “Gift from the Heart” to make it a success is truly amazing. It is obvious she is all about giving back to the community and helping those in need. The motivation she provides other dental professionals is what allows so many clients to access services on this one day event.



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