PRESS RELEASE

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David E. Frost, DDS, MS, Recognized for Commitment to Global Health

[Washington, DC – April 7, 2014] Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO) is pleased to announce that David E. Frost, DDS, MS, is a recipient of the ninth annual HVO Golden Apple Award. As part of its World Health Day observances, HVO created this award to recognize the extraordinary educational contributions of volunteers to international program sites. Each volunteer honored with this award has demonstrated a strong commitment to HVO’s educational mission by working on curriculum development, teacher training, didactic or clinical training, or the enhancement of educational resources.

Dr. Frost, an oral surgeon, has been closely involved with HVO since 1987 when he first volunteered in Nepal. Subsequent volunteer trips included Vietnam, Peru and two trips to India. He has conducted site assessments, served as Project Director for Peru for five years, served on the Oral-Maxillofacial Surgery Steering Committee for seven years, and is currently in his fifth year on the Oral Health Steering Committee, which he chairs. Dr. Frost’s strong commitment to HVO and excellent leadership skills were evident in his twelve year service on the Board of Directors, six of which he was Chair.

Dr. Frost was instrumental in the formation of the HVO Oral Health Initiative, which is sponsored by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AOMS) and the American Dental Association (ADA). He currently chairs the ADA Committee on International Programs and Development, which manages the Oral Health Initiative programs in addition to the Adopt-a-Practice campaign which was initiated to rebuild dental offices in Haiti after the 2010 earthquake.
His tireless commitment to HVO’s mission of providing education and training to health care providers in developing countries has remained strong since his first volunteer experience, and his leadership on the Board took the organization through its 25th year of service and launched new opportunities for growth and development in the future.

Dr. Frost earned his undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University, his dental degree from Baylor College of Dentistry, and his Masters of Science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is currently on the attending staff at Durham Regional Hospital, Davis Ambulatory Surgical Center and North Carolina Specialty Hospital. Since 1996, he has been Clinical Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

Dr. Frost is a member of the American Dental Association, a Fellow with the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, a member (and former Board Chair) of the Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Foundation, the International Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, and the North Carolina Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons. He is past-President of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. In 1998, he was honored with the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Presidential Achievement Award.

The World Health Organization’s Global Health Workforce Alliance has stated, “Health workers are the heart and soul of health systems. And yet, the world is faced with a chronic shortage – an estimated 4.2 million health workers are needed to bridge the gap, with 1.5 million needed in Africa alone. The critical shortage is recognized as one of the most fundamental constraints to achieving progress on health and reaching health and development goals.” They estimate that one billion in the world will never see a health worker in their lives.

“I am very pleased that David Frost is being honored with this award. He has served HVO in every capacity and has provided exceptional leadership in each of those roles. He has also maintained a fervent commitment to improving oral health care around the world, and has sought to raise awareness of the critical role oral health care plays in determining overall health status,” said Nancy Kelly, HVO’s Executive Director. “By highlighting the accomplishments of volunteers like Dr. Frost, we hope to raise awareness of global health issues and encourage others to work towards better health care around the world.”

World Health Day is celebrated annually by the World Health Organization and the international community. Since 1950, it has been held each year on April 7th and focuses on a relevant global health issue. This year’s theme is “Small Bite, Big Threat” which addresses vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue. For more information on World Health Day 2014, visit (http://www.who.int/world-health-day/en/).

Health Volunteers Overseas is a nonprofit organization that seeks to improve global health through education. HVO volunteers build local capacity by providing health care professionals in
developing countries with the knowledge, skills and ability they need to address the health care needs of their communities. HVO volunteers are trained health care professionals - physicians, nurses, dentists, physical therapists and others - willing to donate their time and expertise to work side-by-side with their colleagues overseas. Since 1986, HVO staff and volunteers have collaborated with a variety of health institutions to design, develop and implement each HVO project, working toward better patient care around the globe in trauma care, child and maternal health, safe surgery, cancer care, rehabilitation, and more. Visit www.hvousa.org to learn more.

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