



*In this 2007 photo released by Kay Shaw of Global Dental Relief, a Denver-based group that sends teams of dentists around the globe, Dr. Thomas Grams, 51, formerly of Durango, Colorado., works with a patient in Kathmandu, Nepal.*

*Grams was killed in Afghanistan on Aug. 5, 2010 along with five other Americans, two Afghans, one German and a Briton, Shaw said.*

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**A 51-year-old Colorado dentist, Dr. Thomas Grams, was among 10 members of a medical team gunned down in Afghanistan last week.** Grams was killed August 5 along with five other Americans on a medical trip. The Taliban has claimed credit for the attack.

Thomas Grams retired from his dental practice in 2007 and started his volunteer work in Afghanistan with \$10,000 of his own money and a \$10,000 grant from the Foundation of the Pierre Fauchard Academy. These funds were used to purchase the equipment, supplies, provide for rental expenses, repairs and salaries to establish the **Afghan Relief Organization Dental Clinic**.

The Afghan Relief Organization Dental Clinic has now been operating for 3 years providing free dental care to the students and the surrounding population. The cost and availability of quality dental care is beyond the means of the vast majority of Afghans. The ARO dental clinic was established to help alleviate this problem through the additional training and permanent employment of an Afghan dentist, Dr. Fatima. Dr. Fatima was hired in April 2007 and received additional training from Dr. Grams then and again in 2008. He returned this summer to give her additional training.

For the most part the students have had their fillings and cleanings completed. Dr. Fatima visits schools within walking distance to inform the school administrators of the available free dental care for their students. Optimally 6 or 8 students will be excused from that school daily to go to the clinic to receive needed care. When the students wanting care are completed Dr. Fatima then approaches another nearby school for more students.

Thursdays are left as "open days". That day anyone from the surrounding area can receive care. Other days of the week the students from designated schools receive priority.

In 2009, as a result of the relief effort establish by Dr. Grams, the procedures completed included: 459 prophys, 363 extractions, 428 1 surface amalgams, 374 2 surface amalgams, 285 3 surface amalgams, 445 4 surface amalgams, 93 1 surface composites, 66 2 surface composites, 26 3 surface composites, 18 4 surface composites.

Just weeks prior to his death, Dr. Grams submitted an application requesting an additional \$5,400 from the Foundation for the Afghan Relief Organization Dental Clinic. Dr. Grams stated in his application that "This is an ongoing project that we plan to continue indefinitely."