

# Group provides free services for 120 at Belmar clinic



STAFF PHOTO: KEITH J. WO

Dr. Robert Belott of Sea Girt and Jessica Sherman of Brick work on Katherine Savine of Toms River, who arrived at 3 a.m. to stand in line.

## FUL-FILLING DAY

By **BONNIE DELANEY**  
STAFF WRITER

**BELMAR** — George Howlett of Farmingdale spent the night in his car in the parking lot outside Hanapole Dental Care just to get his teeth cleaned for free.

"I was afraid I had five cavities, too, but the dentist said my teeth were just sensitive after he examined me," said the 27-year-old, who has no dental insurance and arrived at the dental office at 3:30 p.m. Thursday — the day before the event.

By 8 a.m. Friday, a long line of people waited to get a number so they could receive the free dental care offered for the second year by Dr. Philip L. Hanapole and 11 of his dentist friends, five hygienists and a group of other support staff as part of a Dentistry From the Heart event.

Sergey Bedin, 22, who moved to Neptune nine months ago from Vologda, a city located between Moscow and St. Petersburg in Russia, also has no insurance. A student at Brookdale Community College in Middletown who is majoring in business administration, Bedin said he arrived at midnight because he, too, needed dental care.

"In Russia, dental care is free if you are on the government health plan and it is very cheap, like \$50, if you are not and you need care," he said.

"It's all very scary. People just can't afford to go to the dentist," said Bryon Wilson, 27, who traveled from the Bayville section of Berkeley for the free services.

Wilson said that even though he brushes his teeth regularly, he frequently gets cavities and believes it is because he does not get enough calcium as he is lactose-intolerant.

Although the dentists could not do the root canal Wilson needed, they were able to clean out the cavity and pack it with medication and a temporary filling when Wilson decided he didn't want it extracted.

"I'm grateful for what they did for me. I give this dentist a lot of props for funding this program and giving so many people free dental care," he said.

Dr. Robert Belott, one of the dentists helping out, said that offering the free day of care is gratifying.

### DENTISTRY FROM THE HEART

More than 120 people in need of dental care were served Friday by 12 dentists who gathered at Hanapole Dental Care in Belmar to offer a free day of dentistry. For information about the program, founded 10 years ago by Dr. Vincent Monticciolo in New Port Richey, Fla., visit [www.dentistryfromtheheart.org](http://www.dentistryfromtheheart.org), where the organization provides a list of upcoming free dental events throughout the country.

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