



# Minnesota Dental Association "Give Kids a Smile"

## 2009 Fact Sheet

- **"Give Kids a Smile"**, now in its **7<sup>th</sup> year**, is a unique grassroots effort by more than **2,000 volunteer dental professionals** to provide **free** dental care to children in need.
- Free care will be provided Friday, Feb. 6 and Saturday, Feb. 7, 2009
- Give Kids a Smile is coordinated statewide by the **Minnesota Dental Association**, as part of a larger campaign organized nationwide by the American Dental Association.
- To date, more than **30,000 Minnesota children** have received free care through this innovative program.
- Fluoride treatments, cleanings, sealants and fillings are all provided free of charge.
- **This year, nearly 500 dentists will join about 1,500** other volunteers from the state's dental community to offer care in 200 locations across the state.
- It is anticipated that again this year, nearly **5,000 children will receive free care.**
- The Give Kids a Smile event is **just one example of what dentists and their staff are doing to address the oral care access problem.** The Minnesota Dental Association is committed to expanding access to all Minnesotans.

- Give Kids a Smile helps to alleviate one of the most pressing issues facing the dental community: the problem of dental access. Through donated time, innovative program developments and legislative action, the **Minnesota Dental Association is committed to all Minnesotans receiving safe, quality oral care.**
- The Minnesota Dental Association's many programs to help underserved populations include the **Donated Dental Services Program**, an initiative underway with all **Head Start** Children and **Give Kids a Smile**.
- People interested in scheduling an appointment for their child may do so by calling **United Way 211 (just dial 2-1-1) or the statewide toll-free number 1-800-543-7709**. Best to use a land line not a cell phone. Or contact the Minnesota Dental Association at: **mndental.org**
- Care is provided to children **under 18** and accompanied by a guardian.
- Advance appointments are necessary.

\*For more information: [www.mndental.org](http://www.mndental.org)