

Give Kids a SMILE

March 2013

Each year, the Minnesota Dental Association coordinates 'Give Kids a Smile,' a statewide event that celebrates the generosity of dental professionals by offering two days of free care for low-income children.

The event puts smiles on the faces of more than 6,000 kids, with \$2 million in free care delivered at 203 locations. Along with the giving spirit of so many dentists and their teams, at the heart of this program's success is a broad network of community supporters. Below, one clinic describes how it works within its west central Minnesota town to build awareness.



Mike Hamann, DDS, with a young patient.

By Tricia Hamann.

Hamann Family Dentistry in Perham.

This is the fifth year of participation at our dental clinic in Give Kids a Smile and the entire staff looks forward to it. The staff members have a shared mission to donate their time and services of quality dental health care to young people from low-income families.

How do we get the word out to people in our area who could benefit from the program? There are many avenues for networking that have proven successful: Public service announcements in local newspapers and radio stations are helpful methods. As an educator for more than 30 years, I know the importance of reaching children and families in their learning spaces. Therefore, I hand deliver posters to local public and private schools, early childhood programs and other children's organizations like the Boys & Girls Club. We also work with our county organizations, such as the United Way and OTWA Communities Action Council.

Our day begins about 7 a.m. at a local restaurant for a hearty breakfast to increase our energy level and camaraderie for the busy and productive day ahead. Our team is comprised of two dentists, three hygienists, two dental assistants, an office manager and me (communications director and "floater").

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Mike Perpich, DDS, Bill Hoffmann, DDS, MDA Executive Director Carmelo Cinqueonce, Kirby Johnson, DDS, and Adena Borodkin, DDS, at Sharing & Caring Hands.

Testament to giving nature of dentistry

*By Carmelo Cinqueonce, MBA
MDA Executive Director*

To all who participated in this year's Give Kids a Smile program, the MDA Board of Trustees and I thank you for your involvement. The more than 3,000 dental professionals who participated are a testament to the giving nature of the profession.

As a first-time observer, I visited several dental practices. As I introduced myself at the front desk of one particular practice and asked to speak with the dentist, a father and his two young daughters were waiting in the lobby. Overhearing the reason for my visit, the father stood and thanked me for helping him and his daughters.

Of course, the thank you belongs to you all. But I couldn't help but be touched by this gentleman's gratitude

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Thank you, participating dentists!

Keith Abrahamson, Shruti Acosta, Craig Adelman, Ritu Aggarwal, Alejandro Aguirre, Laura Aguirre, Amanda Allen, Monica Alley, Seth Amadio, Elizabeth Amundson, Nicole Amundson, David Andersen, Tiffany Andersen, Jordan Anderson, Trent Anderson, Brady Andvik, Jerome Appeldoorn, Geoff Archibald, James Arhart, Peder Arneson, Dylan Aschman, Rochelle Avent-Hassan, Mark Bachman, Brandon Bailey, Jacki Baldwin, Anne Balfour, Paul Bartlam, Prasad Bastodkar, Lindsay Bates, Monique Baune, Robert Beattie, Joe Becker, Soraya Beiraghi, Steve Bejarano, Steve Bejarano, Kathleen Bellamy, William Bellamy, David Bengtson, Mary Benson, Noah Berge, Victor Bieganeck, Don Blakeslee, Paul Boettner, Adena Borodkin, Bernie Bouquet, Heidi Brandenburg, Satbir Brar, Cassandra Braun, Corey Brenner, Scott Brezisky, Brenda Brockman, Regan Brown, Shari Bruning, Maria Bulat, Ben Buntrock, Roger Burke, Jodi Burth, Michael Bussa, Kevan Cahow, Peter Cameron, Josh Campbell, Kathryn Cargill, Carrie Carlson, Eric Carlson, Leonard Carlson, Paul Carlson, Andrew Carrell, Dennis Carreras, Paul Carson, Douglas Carter, Lisa Cashin, Nancy Cashman, Robert Casper Jr., Brent Cataldo, Lisa Cepek, Mora Cervenka, Wayne Christianson, Amy Chi, Jack Churchill, Ethan Chute, Julie Clasen, Marty Clasen, Donald Clausen, Julie Clouse, Ryan Clouse, Michael Colbert, David Collier, Karen Competente, Daniel Condon, James Connors, Catalin Constantin, Katherine Conway, Elizabeth Cooper, Diane Crater, Jennifer Culver, Geetha Damodaran, Kim Danielson, Steven DeKoster, Chris DeLaMater, Luis Delima, Adele Della Torre, Robert Derr, Jessica Desjardins, Edward Deutschmann, Thomas DeWitt, Michael Dickman, Heidi Diekmann, Rebecca Dolittle, John Doroschak, Richard Dresser, Brock Droll, Kevin Dunlavey, Scott Durand, Jennifer Dylla, Megan Eakins, Kyle Edlund, Steve Edlund, Elizabeth Eggert, Siara Elovich, John Englund, Ronald Erickson, Jerry Erickson, Ken Erickson, Zeynep Ertugrul, Brian Evensen, Dan Fallen, Sandy Fenske, Paul Fiedler, Jennifer Fields, Rhett Finley, Keith Flack, Jessica Flanagan, Phil Flodin, Teresa Fong, Jodi Fonkert, Jeff Forslund, Jeanni Foss, Luke Foster, Jeffrey Fox, Christopher French, Craig Frerichs, Dominic Gagnon, Sarah Gallagher, Michael Gardner, Krista Geisler, Linda Giang, Robert Gillum, William Godmare, Laurie Goldenberg, David Golke, Gene Gomes, Sean Goolsby, Krista Gossai, Thomas Goulding, Jane Gracza, Matt Grau, Donald Grote, Ron Grothe, Eric Grutzner, Thomas Haas, Patrick Haberman, Justin Hagen, Mike Hagley, Devon Halberg, Erick Hallie, Julie Haman, Brooke Hamann, Michael Hamann, George Hankerson,

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Our partners in spreading smiles!

- **HealthPartners** and **3M ESPE Dental Products**, which fund statewide television and radio advertising.
- **United Way 2-1-1 call centers**, which field thousands of inquiries from families in January.
- **Dental Experts**, a St. Paul-based staffing agency that helped find many allied dental professionals to support several events.
- **Countless caring professionals** at schools, clinics, county agencies, food shelves, and community organizations who informed families in need.
- **Community- and education-based dental clinics** that hosted large events, including: Central Lakes College, Brainerd; Century College Dental Clinic, White Bear Lake; Children's Dental Services, N.I.P. Community Clinic, NorthPoint Health and Wellness Center Dental Clinic, University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, Minneapolis District Dental Society/Sharing and Caring Hands Dental Clinic, Community University Health Care Center, all of Minneapolis; Community Dental Care in Rochester and Maplewood; Dakota County Technical College, Rosemount; Lake Superior College Dental Hygiene, Duluth; Minnesota State University, Mankato; Normandale Community College, Bloomington; Rice Regional Dental Clinic, Willmar; St. Cloud Technical College Dental Clinic; Union Gospel Mission, St. Paul; Apple Tree Dental in Hawley and Fergus Falls.



Elizabeth Cooper, DDS, with 5-year-old Thomas at Cooper's practice in St. Paul.



Nina Nguyen, RDH, with 3-year-old Keshaw at Metro DentalCare Brooklyn Center.

Children's Defense Fund Minnesota sent Second Harvest Heartland outreach personnel to offer Bridge to Benefits screening for families at two Give Kids a Smile clinics. The confidential, non-identifying screening helps families determine if they are eligible for a number of support programs. Of 19 families (representing 85 family members) screened, each was found to be eligible for a least one program, such as Medical Assistance, WIC, school meals and energy assistance. The average income of screened families was \$25,648. Thank you to **Children's Dental Services**, Minneapolis, and **St. Paul Dental Center** for hosting the screeners! We hope to provide additional screening locations next year.

Making a difference in children's lives

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and knowing the difference that was being made in those children's lives.

I also had the opportunity to visit the Minneapolis District Dental Society's event at the Sharing and Caring Hands facility. There, I witnessed firsthand dental professionals providing much needed care to multiples of children. What a truly moving experience. And the volunteers have a great time doing it!

I am continually inspired by the tremendous generosity in the dental community, from all of those who donate their time during Give Kids a Smile to all who donate services in their practice on a regular basis and never receive nor seek the deserved recognition.

Thank you for your participation and generosity.

Program benefits recipients, caregivers

Hamann, from page 1

We have at least 20 children scheduled. Parents are grateful for not having to worry about costs of services, including exams, cleanings, fluoride varnishes, sealants, extractions and fillings. With each exam, we demonstrate and encourage correct

brushing and flossing techniques, as well as good oral hygiene.

Both Dr. Mike Hamann, Dr. Brooke Hamann and the entire dental team believe that Give Kids a Smile benefits both the caregivers and the recipients. As Dr. Brooke says, "It is amazing to see how happy the children are to get

their teeth cleaned, learn about tooth decay prevention and how appreciative the parents are for our services."

No one says it better than Mother Teresa, "Every time you smile at someone, it is an action of love, a gift to that person, a beautiful thing." Give Kids a Smile promotes this adage.

Smiles by the number

One child hadn't seen a dentist in eight years and made a 50-mile trip to participate in Give Kids a Smile, said fourth-year dental student Casey Chantelois. "It really makes you want to help out," he said.

- Excerpt from the West Central Tribune, covering the Give Kids a Smile event at Rice Regional Dental Clinic in Willmar, where 28 volunteers provided free care to 80 children.

Dentists ▶ 570

Dental clinics ▶ 203

Children ▶ 6,136

Total dental professionals ▶ 3,015

Smile Factory (after care) clinics ▶ 14

Monetary value ▶ \$2 million



Lisa Cepek, DMD, (at right) visits with a young patient and mother during Park Dental Eden Prairie's Give Kids a Smile event.

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