

# Give Yourself a Smile!

when you register online at:  
**regonline.com/gkas-mn**

With each of the following options, you can decide how and when you volunteer. Registration takes only a few minutes and you can update your information as your plans evolve.

- Host an event at your own clinic
- Volunteer as an individual or team at another location
- Take referrals for specific cases after “Give Kids a Smile” (this is called Smile Factory)
- Make a financial contribution to the MDF

**Learn more at [mndental.org](http://mndental.org)**



*MDA President Mike Perpich (left) is an annual volunteer at the Minneapolis District Dental Society's “Give Kids a Smile” program at Sharing and Caring Hands Dental Clinic in Minneapolis.*

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# Give Kids a SMILE

November 2013 Newsletter

## Doing charity care together

### Give Kids a Smile

Friday, Feb. 7, and Saturday, Feb. 8

Register now to participate in this annual charitable program. You have the option of hosting an event in your own clinic or helping out at another location. Learn more at [mndental.org](http://mndental.org).

Coordinated charity care – so exhausting and gratifying – has become something we do well here in Minnesota.

It helps kids. It gives back. And it builds public awareness about the need to do more to break down the barriers to dental care faced by Minnesota's most vulnerable -- children.

If you have been involved with these statewide events, your motivation for volunteering is probably as simple as “because kids need it.” For a variety of reasons, all out of the kids’ control, they need help – some just need a good cleaning; others need extensive treatment.

As the MDA plans for “Give Kids a Smile 2014,” we know the children’s stories and faces may be new, but the need for care will be as great as ever. In fact, in the past 10 years, the number of kids living in poverty has risen 62 percent. And the number of kids living in extreme poverty has more than doubled to 81,000 kids.

Thanks to the hundreds of dentists who join in MDA's coordinated charitable works each year.



In the land of sturdy Paul Bunyan and above-average Lake Woebegone, it's easy to imagine that all the state's children are hale and hearty. During the first “Give Kids a Smile” event 12 years ago, however, we saw something much different.

We saw a sweet 4-year-old girl with rampant baby bottle decay. We saw a teenage boy whose only option was to be fitted with dentures. We saw teen sisters whose single parent, a mentally ill father, didn't keep up with their medical appointments, so they were eager to see the dentist. And on and on. These kids and their stories touched the hearts of dentists and entire teams in dental clinics in rural and urban areas.

Before “Give Kids a Smile,” charity dentistry was primarily done privately in one's own office, at a community-based clinic or as part of out-of-country missions. But now, in addition to those important activities, more than 500 dentists – and 3,000 dental professionals in total – unite to provide treatment to 6,000 children each year as part of a statewide program.

One especially gratifying result of this program is that dental students, both future dentists and allied professionals, have been so entrenched in their schools’ “Give Kids a Smile” events, that they have created a workforce of active, young volunteers.

The spirit of coordinated charity care grew again with the Minnesota Mission of Mercy program, which has cared for another 532 children in the past two years.

“Give Kids a Smile” is a charitable outreach event coordinated each year by the Minnesota Dental Association.

[mndental.org](http://mndental.org)





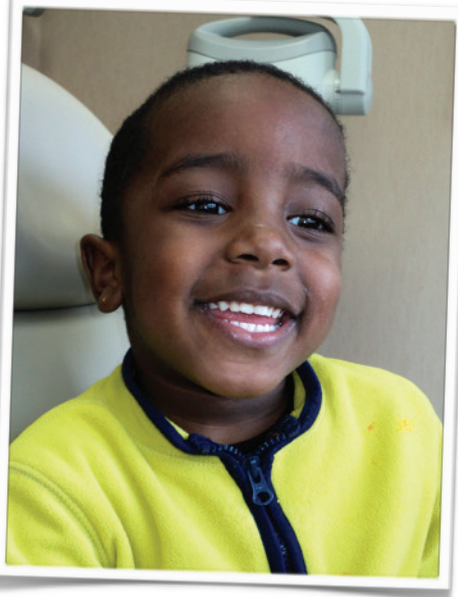
# Early volunteer numbers are strong

Thanks to the following dentists, who registered so quickly as volunteers for “Give Kids a Smile,” as of Oct. 25! Hundreds more will join the list before Feb. 7.

Michael Ahn, Monica Alley, Nicole Amundson, Jordan Anderson, Carol Bahnemann, Anne Balfour, Paul Bartlam, Monique Baune, Joe Becker, Paul Belvedere, David Bengston, Mary Benson, Bernie Bouquet, Bryce Bray, Corey Brenner, Brian Burmeister, Josh Campbell, Paul Carlson, Michael Carter, Lisa Cashin, Mora Cervenka, Martin Clasen, Michael Colbert, Daniel Condon, James Connors, Kara Conry, Katherine Conway, Elizabeth Cooper, Jenifer Culver, Geetha Damodaran, Kim Danielson, Steven DeKoster, Robert Derr, Edward Deutschmann, Michael Dickman, Michelle Dunlap, Scott Durand, Megan Eakins, Kyle Edlund, Jon Fabian, Keith Flack, Jessica Flanigan, Luke Foster, Jeffrey Fox, Linda Giang-Carlson, William Godmare, Ron Grothe, Jared Gustafson, John Gustafson, Patrick Haberman, Devon Halberg, George Hankerson, Chad Hanson, Mikkel Haugen, John Heckert, Claire Hermunslie, Jeffrey Hiebert, Hassan Ismail, Lee Jess, Craig Johnson, Lisa Johnson, Neil Johnson, Todd Johnson, John Jordan, Sonja Josephs, James Kalina, Marcia Kangas, Jess Kelly, Robert Kess, Deborah Knaup, Scott Kron, Ba Lam, Kirsten Langguth, Cory Larson, John Lawson, Zachary Lechner, Anthony Leong, Deb Lien, Chris Lindquist, Mike Lose, Michelle Lund, Robert Mann, Todd Marshall, Brent Martin, Dan Martin, Alison McCarville, Chris

Mertensotto, John Miller, Krista Miller, Brian Mondale, Roger Mondale, Marshall Morris, Rachana Nevile, Daniel Osdoba, Swedeh Osman, Sara Ostroot, Eileen Patterson, Michael Pelke, Nathan Porath, Dana Porwoll, Gerald Rauchwarter, Lowell Reither, Scott Rensch, Joseph Rinaldi, Ryan Ritchie, Clinton Roberts, Jay Rollinger, Kristine Rosenthal, Arnold Rutman, Daniel Schafer, Katie Schelling, Angela Schuck, Mark Severt, Sue Shatkowski, Haydi Sidky, Alexis Simonson, John Stangl, Chris Steele, Chris Stenzel, Patricia Stone, Tasha Strait, Alena Tardiff, Todd Thierer, Jason Thimjon, James Tomhave, Steven Tomhave, Lam Tu, Matthew Vaillant, Duane Van Nieuwenhuyzen, William Wagnild, Garth West, John Woell, Kacie Woodis and Jasmine Yesil.

**The following community-based clinics will host events:** Lake Superior College Dental Hygiene Clinic, Duluth; Central Lakes College, Brainerd; Dakota County Technical College, Rosemount; Good Samaritan Dental Clinic, Rochester; Minnesota State University, Mankato; Normandale Community College, Bloomington; Rice Regional Dental Clinic, Willmar; Union Gospel Mission, St. Paul; University of Minnesota - School of Dentistry, Minneapolis; and St. Joseph's Community Dental Clinic, Park Rapids.



“The GKAS experience was extremely rewarding! It is great to know that Rice Regional Dental Clinic, volunteers and community donors made a measurable difference in the lives of many children. Through hands-on dental education to parents and children, as well as possible prevention of future dental disease through sealant placement and fluoride application, lives have been changed. Children will not have to experience dental pain in school or at home. Suspect caries were identified and the parents were sent home with educational material provided by Minnesota Dental Association about the caries process, the need for fluoride, and the effects that sweet and acidic foods have on teeth. Seeing the joy that the parents have when their children can access dental care cannot be replaced. It was worth all the time spent with phone calls and the advertising work that went into this event. Our volunteers said, ‘Sign me up again, I’m coming back to help next year!’”

– Renee Johnson, event coordinator at Rice Regional Dental Clinic in Willmar, where 72 children received care during last February’s “Give Kids a Smile.”



“Give Kids a Smile” is an “it-takes-a-village” kind of program. The Minnesota Dental Association provides central coordination. Loyal business partners fund statewide television and radio advertising. Events at many community-based dental clinics would not be possible without grants from the Minnesota Dental Foundation. United Way 2-1-1 allows its team of information and referral specialists to field thousands of calls about the program. And thousands of professionals in schools, social service agencies, faith communities and more post fliers and talk with families about “Give Kids a Smile.” It’s a statewide effort.

Key to Success: Community Partnerships

William Wagnild, DDS, (at left) and the team (below) at Cedar Hills Dental Center in Minnetonka are longtime program volunteers. His clinic works with local school nurses to identify patients. “They let us know a couple of the high school students are now homeless and there is no parent involvement. That is difficult to learn. We, hopefully, gave those students a little bit to smile about,” says Grace Wagnild, the clinic’s “Give Kids a Smile” coordinator.



Likewise, “Give Kids a Smile” events at each participating clinic are more successful when they work with community partnerships. Start making some phone calls now to local schools, Boys and Girls Clubs, county public nurses and others. Explain “Give Kids a Smile” and how your clinic is participating. Ask if they can help you identify a specific number of kids who could benefit from your services. Many clinics find that these partnerships not only create lasting relationships, but they also ensure fewer failed appointments. Please find the section called “Working with local agencies to identify children in need” in the online Participation Kit for resources to help you find local organizations.

GKAS PLANNING SCHEDULE	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Read the entire Partipation Kit</li><li>•Designate a coordinator</li><li>•Secure supplies</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Reach out to community partners to identify children who could most benefit</li><li>•Invite local media and legislators to your event</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Start filling appointments</li><li>•Get forms ready for event</li><li>• Let the MDA know when your schedule is full</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Enjoy an exhilarating, exhausting, satisfying day of dentistry!</li><li>•Complete MDA’s Procedure Survey</li></ul>