*Local Press Release Template*

**Local Dentist Providing Free Dental Care**

**to Children in Need**

(Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or clinic name) of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (city) is pleased to be joining the ranks of hundreds of dental professionals across the state in providing free care to children whose families cannot afford to pay for the care. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (clinic name) office is located at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (address). People interested in scheduling an appointment on February \_\_\_ (date) may call the dental office at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (phone).

The Minnesota Dental Association is sponsoring this statewide outreach effort, called *Give Kids a Smile*, because dentists are committed to providing all children with dental care and helping eliminate barriers to care throughout Minnesota. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (clinic name) has been hosting *Give Kids a Smile* events for \_\_\_\_ (insert number) years in the community as a way to provide free dental care to local children who desperately need it. *OR* This is the first year the event has been hosted by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (clinic name) to provide free dental care to local children who desperately need it.

Since *Give Kids a Smile* began in 2003, Minnesota dentists have provided free care to more than 65,000 young children and donated services valued at more than $16 million. But challenges still remain. Dental disease remains more prevalent today than childhood asthma.  Nearly one in four children aged two to 11 years old has untreated cavities in their baby teeth, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Regular dental check-ups are critical to keeping children’s teeth and gums healthy, but a major barrier for too many families is the lack of access to affordable dental care.

“This is a special way to reach children in need of dental care. Left untreated, tooth decay can have devastating effects on young children, affecting their overall health and even their success in school. We are so happy to be able to help,” said \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Hundreds clinics across the state will open their doors for this program on Feb. 3 and 4, 2017. Patients seeking appointments should be age 18 and younger and accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Information on specific services that will be provided will be outlined when an appointment is scheduled.

*The Minnesota Dental Association is the voice of dentistry in Minnesota, representing practicing dentists. It is committed to the highest standards of oral health and access to care for all Minnesotans. Learn more at:* [*www.mndental.org*](http://www.mndental.org)