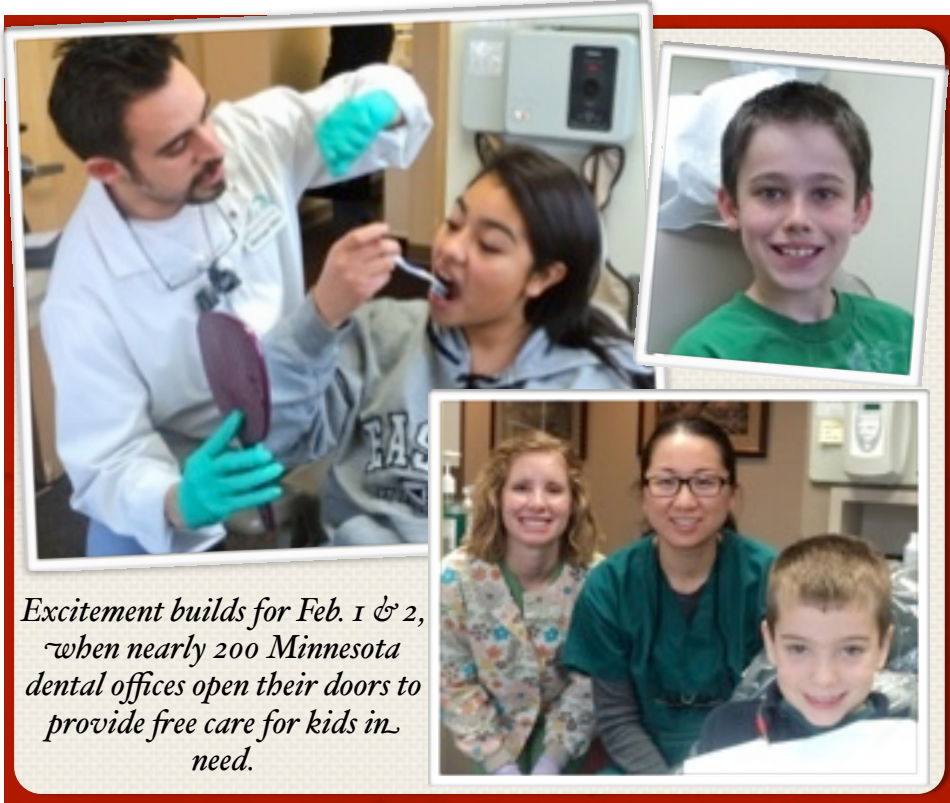


# Give Kids a SMILE

November 2012 Newsletter



*Excitement builds for Feb. 1 & 2, when nearly 200 Minnesota dental offices open their doors to provide free care for kids in need.*

## Making connections

Each year, Give Kids a Smile volunteers restore healthy smiles to the faces of thousands of children across the state. As volunteers well know, those children come from all sorts of situations that result in the need for charitable services. Some families are homeless or living with mental and other illness that make it difficult to keep up with regular healthcare needs for their children. Some families are simply experiencing a downturn in personal finances due to job layoffs, foreclosure and other difficulties.

As you welcome these families into your office for "Give Kids a Smile" day, the Minnesota Dental Association wants you to be aware of some information you can pass along to help them access additional resources:



**Bridge to Benefits** is a multi-state project by Children's Defense Fund to improve the well-being of families and individuals by linking them to public work support programs and tax credits. Parents or guardians should be encouraged to go to [mn.bridgetobenefits.org](http://mn.bridgetobenefits.org) to find an eligibility screening tool. They will be asked a few simple, non-identifying questions. It's easy, confidential and free! Please watch for Bridge to Benefits brochures in your January planning packet from the MDA.

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## Are you registered?

The Minnesota Dental Association is proud to coordinate a statewide charitable program that unites the generosity of thousands of volunteers in delivering free dental care to children in need. This program, "Give Kids a Smile," also happens at a national level and, in lots of different ways, in states and dental societies across the country.

The MDA warmly welcomes you to join this effort. You have several options for getting involved. The first step is registering as a participant. Just go to [regonline.com/gkas-mn](http://regonline.com/gkas-mn). When you register, you can tell us if you plan to:

- **Host a Give Kids a Smile event** at your clinic
- **Volunteer as an individual or team** at another location
- Take **"Smile Factory"** referrals (severe cases that need treatment post GKAS)
- **Make a financial contribution**

Why register? Because, once we know how and when you are volunteering, the MDA can assist you in several ways, including making sure families know you are taking appointments (one of the options available to hosting clinics). We can also help you find a place to volunteer as an individual or team, or find volunteers to come in and help out at your clinic's event.

Another important reason is this: *When we can make a grand tally of every volunteer, every kid and every procedure, it really adds up and creates an accurate, amazing story of your profession's generosity!*



Phone: 612-767-8400  
[www.mndental.org](http://www.mndental.org)

# Dentists again eager to volunteer for GKAS

**A**s of November 12, the following dentists have signed up as Give Kids a Smile volunteers. These dentists will work in their own private practices or will pitch in at another local practice or community-based clinic. Some will take referrals for more extensive cases. Others will provide financial support to help defray costs at participating clinics. Many more will register as volunteers in the months ahead. We thank each and every one!

Craig Adelman, Monica Alley, Seth Amadio, Elizabeth Amundson, Trent Anderson, Dylan Ascherman, Rochelle Avent-Hassan, Mark Bachman, Anne Balfour, Paul Bartlam, Monique Baune, Steve Bejarano, David Bengtson, Mary Benson, Noah Berge, Heidi Brandenburg, Cassandra Braun, Corey Brenner, Brenda Brockman, Regan Brown, Shari Bruning, Maria Bulat, Ben Buntrock, Kevan Cahow, Josh Campbell, Carrie Carlson, Eric Carlson, Leonard Carlson, Paul Carlson, Andrew Carrell, Brent Cataldo, Lisa Cepek, Mora Cervenka, Andrew Christensen, Jack Churchill, Ethan Chute, Julie Clasen, Martin Clasen, Donald Clausen, Julie Clouse, Sara Colarusso, Michael Colbert, Karen Competente, Daniel Condon, Jim Connors, Elizabeth Copper, Diane Crater, Jenifer Culver, Ruth Daley, Geetha Damodaran, Kim Danielson, Robert Derr, Jessica Desjardins, Edward Deutschmann, Thomas DeWitt, Michael Dickman, Trisha Diderrich, Heidi Diekmann, Richard Dresser, Kevin Dunlavey, Scott Durand, Megan Eakins, Kyle Edlund, Brian Evensen, Sandra Fenske, Jennifer Fields, Keith Flack, Chris Fondell, Teresa Fong, Jodi Fonkert, Jeanni Foss, Luke Foster, Jeffrey Fox, Sarah Gallagher, Michael Gardner, Krista Geisler, Linda Giang, William Godmare, David Golke, Eugene Gomes, Sean Goolsby, Matt Grau, Donald Grote, Patrick Haberman, Justin Hagen, Michael Hagley, Devon Halberg, Brooke Hamann, Michael Hamann, George

Hankerson, Greg Harvey, Gary Hedin, Azar Hemmaty, Matthew Hendrickson, Steven Henseler, John Herkert, Sarah Hermanson, Clare Hermunslic, Jeff Hiebert, Agnes Hill, Anthony Hilleren, Angela Hilo, Alice Huang, Kurtiss Huether, Steve Humbert, Jennifer Idziorek, Bennett Isabella, Linda Jackson, Lee Jess, Aaron Johnson, Bart Johnson, Craig Johnson, Jerry Johnson, Joe Johnson, Kristi Johnson, Lisa Johnson, Paul Johnson, Timothy Johnson, Todd Johnson, Brian Jordan, John Jordan, Jim Kalina, Marcia Kangas, Brandon Kelly, Timothy Kelly, Barry Kinneberg, Renee Kinney, Heather Kivi, Deborah Knaup, Karen Kohler, James Koller, Julie Konop, Elias Kouvalis, Asha Lalla, Ba Lam, Kirsten Langguth, Timothy Langguth, Cory Larson, Mai-Trinh Le, Anthony Leong, Bridget Lervick, Andrew Liu, Kate Logan, Frank Lombardo, Luke MacMenamin, Gary Madison, Samira Mahabadi, Archana Mani, Ryan Manke, Robert Mann, Jennifer Marker Johnson, Nadia Maradiaga, Richard Markowski, Todd Marshall, James Marzella, Colin McCarty, Alison McCarville, Elizabeth McCauley, Christina McCullough, Brian McDonald, Duane McDonald, Cindy McGregor, Claire Mielke, Peter Mielke, Amy Mikkonen, Brian Mondale, Roger Mondale, David Naegeli, Grant Nelson, Andrea Newton, Jessica Nguyen, Tuyen Nguyen, Steve Nielsen, Ann Norrlander, Pat O'Brien, Jane Odgers, Paul Odland, Danielle Olson, Sara Ostroot, David Oltmans, Thomas Owen, Janet Parsons, G. Rankin Patet, Eileen Patterson, Lincy Paul, Eugene Peet, Michael Pelke, Matt Peterson, Russell Peterson, Thomas Peterson, Brian Pierce, Nathan Porath, Heidi Pound, Erin Powers, Ronald Rasmussen, John Reardon, Kordie Reinhold, Lowell Reither, Scott Rensch, Kristine Riewer, Otto Ringle, Ryan Ritchie, Clinton Roberts, Heather Robinson, Steven Rodenburg, Jay Rollinger, Noah Rounds, Byron Rowell, Andrea Ruby, Arnold Rutman, Elizabeth Rydell, Chas Salmen, Brar Satbir, Ervin Savord, Katie Schelling, Tracey Schilling-



**Rochester dentist Joe Becker volunteered last year at the Good Samaritan Dental Clinic.**

Hysjulien, Angela Schuck, Megan Schwartzbauer, Lubomir Serafimov, June Shannon-Hardrict, Jennifer Shimek, Haydi Sidky, Kathrine Sievert, Alexis Simonson, Roger Sjulson, Larry Slepicka, Katie Slingsby, Camie Smith, Sara Smith, John Stangl, Jared Stanley, Christopher Steele, Jeff Steele, Donald Steinmetz, Corban Stettler, Tasha Strait, Arthur Swanstrom, Paul Thai, James Tomhave, Steven Tomhave, Erin Topley, Kevin Torbenson, Gina Torres, David Trebisovsky, Todd Tsuchiya, Lam Tu, Dennis Vaillant, Matthew Vaillant, Duane Van Nieuwenhuyzen, Brian Vieregge, Tuyet Vuong, Shelley Wakefield, Greg Walling, John Withrow, John Wittenstrom, Chad Wojtowick, Stacey Wolken, Debra Wynia, Robert Yankovich, Riad Youssef, Diane Zimmerman, Carolyn Zurich and Andrew Zwiers.

**These community-based clinics will host Give Kids a Smile events:** Minneapolis District Dental Society/ Sharing and Caring Hands; Minnesota State University, Mankato; Rice Regional Dental Clinic, Willmar; Century College Dental Clinic, White Bear Lake; St. Cloud Technical College Dental Clinic; Central Lakes College, Brainerd; Dakota County Technical College, Rosemount; Lake Superior College Dental Hygiene, Duluth; Community Dental Care, Maplewood and St. Paul; Children's Dental Services, Minneapolis; and Normandale Community College, Bloomington.



## New outreach to families

Getting information about Give Kids a Smile into the hands of those who need it is a perennial challenge. This year, the MDA is reaching out to families in a new way. We will work with Hunger Solutions Minnesota to place Give Kids a Smile fliers into families' grocery bags at food shelves in strategic areas of the state.

If you want extra copies of this flier to deliver to a food shelf in your town, please let the MDA know at [gkas@mndental.org](mailto:gkas@mndental.org). Thanks!

## Your one-stop GKAS planning guide

Whether you are a veteran of Give Kids a Smile planning or a novice, the MDA encourages you to take advantage of a valuable resource, the **Participation Kit**.

The Participation Kit is a compilation of essential documents, references and tips offered by a variety of experienced volunteers. We guarantee you'll save yourself some time and frustration if you take about a half hour to thoroughly review the Kit. It's divided into several parts. Here are some highlights:

**Event preparation checklist** - A new addition to the Kit, this gives a month-by-month listing of essential planning steps.

**Sample letters** - Download and personalize an appointment reminder (in English and Spanish), as well as a letter and press release for your community.

**Training** - Get your staff ready for a day full of little patients by together

reviewing training on infant oral exam techniques.

**Promotional fliers** - Download, print and distribute fliers (in multiple languages) in your community to let families know about the availability of free care for children in need.

**Scheduling ideas** - GKAS is like no other day of the year. Some strategic scheduling can make a big difference in your event's success.

**Forms** - Tailored by MDA legal counsel for this program, consent-to-treatment forms are available in many languages, together with health history forms and a take-home letter for your patients.

The Participation Kit is available on the MDA website. When you register to host a Give Kids a Smile event, you will receive an e-mail with a link to the Kit. You can also find it, along with many other resources, on the Give Kids a Smile page in the dental professional's section of the website.

## Relaying valuable resources for families

*From page 1*

**Resources for Ongoing Care** is a listing of Minnesota dental clinics that offer services at a reduced cost or sliding-scale fee or provide services to patients who are on public care programs. The list is broken into geographic areas of Minnesota and is easy to find at [mndental.org](http://mndental.org). Please make print-outs of the appropriate list for your patients.

**Smiles Change Lives** provides orthodontic care in private orthodontic offices in many areas throughout Minnesota. This program serves children ages 11 to 18 who have a significant malocclusion, can be treated in one stage, have good oral hygiene and cannot afford orthodontic treatment. Applicants need to be below

200% of the federal poverty level. If accepted into the program, the orthodontic treatment will be provided at a greatly reduced fee. To help a patient apply for this program, call 888-900-3554 or visit [smileschangelives.org](http://smileschangelives.org).

**United Way 2-1-1** partners with Give Kids a Smile each year by serving as a central phone bank to refer patients to a local participating clinic. But every day of the year, this service is available to help families access medical care, prescription drugs, housing, food and other essential needs. Multilingual access is available for more than 100 languages. Please find the United Way 2-1-1 flier in the Give Kids a Smile online Participation Kit, then print it out and share it with families.



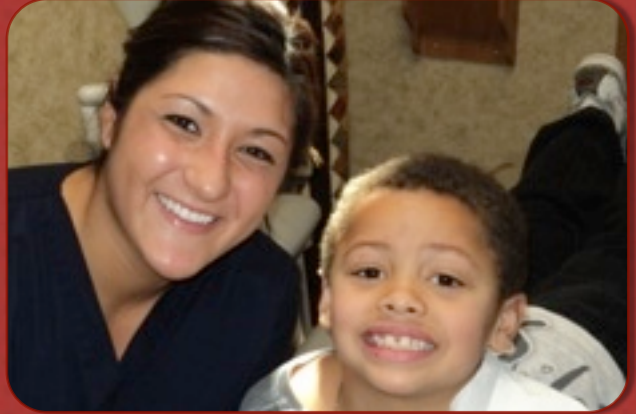
**Ethan Chute, DDS, has been a Give Kids a Smile volunteer since 2006.**

## Help from our friends

The MDA is grateful for the continued support of business partners **HealthPartners** and **3M ESPE**.

For 11 years now, these companies have provided MDA with the funding needed to promote Give Kids a Smile to families in need, with ads on WCCO-TV and on radio stations throughout the state.

Please join the MDA in thanking these sponsors for their commitment to dentists' charitable efforts and for helping us spread the word to families who face barriers to dental care.



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SMILE**