Program Outcomes

The Give Kids a Smile Dental Program has been very successful since its inception in 2003.

- Over 6,300 kids have received oral health care through the GKAS Program.
- Over $1,300,000 of free services have been donated by the dentists and their staff.
- Over 50% of the children screened return to the dentist for restorative work.
- 5% to 10% of the children have eight or more cavities that will be fixed.

Jeff Cornelius
Program Supervisor
(309) 736-6627
jcornelius@bethany-qc.org
Give Kids A Smile Dental Program

What is the Give Kids a Smile Dental Program?
The Give Kids a Smile Dental Program is a community program aimed to increase access to dental care to the underserved, low-income children. This program is endorsed by the American Dental Association (ADA) and the ADA Foundation and is coordinated locally by its Board of Advisors. It is one of the many community services programs of Bethany for Children & Families.

What qualifies my child for these services?
Services are available to children ages three to 17 who are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, who have never been to a dentist, who do not have dental insurance, or have Medicaid but cannot find a provider who accepts that type of insurance.

Where does the program take place?
The Give Kids a Smile Dental Program takes place on a dental bus that travels directly to schools in Rock Island and Scott Counties. Licensed dental staff members provide exams in the mobile clinic. An additional 94 general dentists and specialists, provide follow-up work in their offices.

What does my child receive while in the program?
Children who qualify for this program receive the following dental services on the dental bus free of charge:
- education to help improve oral health
- cleaning
- exam
- sealants (if eligible)
- fluoride treatment
Volunteer dentists or specialists and Community Health Care provide follow-up care.
These services may include:
- fillings
- extractions
- root canals

Who goes to the dentist with my child if follow-up care is needed?
Parents are strongly encouraged to attend follow-up appointments with their children. If a child is referred to a specialist or Community Health Care the parent must accompany the child to his/her appointments. In general, outside volunteers and staff from Bethany accompany the children to their follow-up visit if parents are unable to transport them. Bethany agency vehicles are used to transport the children to the dentist for follow-up work.

How are referrals handled for this program?
School nurses send out a parent letter and consent form to children at their school. The forms are returned to the school nurse who then gives the form to the Program Manager. The Manager reviews the forms for completeness and then, based on the information given, decides whether or not a child meets requirements for the program.