



Press Release

For immediate release

For more information:

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Ninth annual Give Kids A Smile® day provides free dental care to children in need

Moline, Illinois – Bethany for Children & Families is pleased to announce Give Kids A Smile® (GKAS) day on February 4, 2011, where over 400 needy children in Rock Island and Scott County will receive dental cleanings and screenings. In all, 89 Quad City dentists have volunteered their time and resources to provide an oral exam, cleaning, x-rays, and fluoride treatment to children who do not have access to dental care.

Bethany for Children & Families has partnered with area schools to identify children eligible for the GKAS program in eliminating the silent epidemic of dental disease for the thousands of children who find it challenging to eat, sleep, or simply smile.

Nearly 1 in 4 children, aged 2 to 11 years, has untreated cavities in their baby teeth, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). While poor diet and oral hygiene certainly play a role, lack of insurance and financial resources are also major barriers to dental care for children.

“During the past year, Give Kids a Smile has faced huge challenges and successes,” said Jim Bishop, Chairman of the GKAS Board of Advisors, “Our stagnant economy and dismal news from our state governments put increasing pressure on all of our social agency partners.” Jim continued, “If we were going to reach the children whom truly need our care, we were going to have to reach out further into the community than in the past.”

The GKAS volunteer dental offices have stepped up to the plate, and the program is now poised to deliver more free dental care than ever. Mr. Bishop said, “Our message to the community is clear: preventative dentistry is health care that works; we’re right here, come see us.” Additional health screening days are scheduled for April 1 and September 9, 2011.

Colgate and Henry Schein donated dental supplies for the Give Kids A Smile Day and transportation for children from schools to dental offices is provided by Johannes Bus Service, Durham School Services, and ACT II Transportation. Volunteers chaperoning children to and from the dental offices are from the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). Funding for the Give Kids a Smile Program this year is provided by the Illinois State Dental Society Foundation (ISDS), Foundation of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, Scott County Regional Authority, Delta Dental of Iowa, Moline Foundation, Community Foundation of the Great River Bend, CVS Pharmacy, Build-a-Bear Foundation, Medicaid insurance, and private donors.

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Please see the following information for specific details.

Local elected public officials have been invited to attend the event and we encourage media attendance at the following offices:

Illinois

Dr. James Bishop
850 36th Avenue, Moline
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Iowa

Dr. Fred Burnham, Dr. Kyle Gagliardo, Dr. Tim Smith, and Dr. Ben Seldon
2820 AAA Court, Bettendorf
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.