

Delta Dental's Smart Smiles®



Developed by Delta Dental of Virginia, Smart Smiles assists in the provision

of much needed dental care, dental health education and oral hygiene instruction. The program provides children who lack dental insurance, or who qualify for Medicaid or FAMIS coverage, with the opportunity to receive dental treatment.



Information

For additional information on how you can help, please contact:

Tina A. Bailey, CDA, CDPMA
Public Benefits Coordinator
Delta Dental's Smart Smiles®
Delta Dental of Virginia
4860 Cox Road, Suite 130
Glen Allen, VA 23060
804.915.2690 (direct line)
800.533.4137 ext. 19 (toll free)
804.527.1870 (fax)
tina.bailey@deltadentalva.com

www.smartsmiles.org



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Giving Kids Something
to Smile About



Information Guide for Providers,
Donors and Volunteers

 DELTA DENTAL

Dazzling results really are something to smile about



Other Delta Dental of Virginia public benefit programs

With Delta Dental's Smart Smiles, success is measured by results. In addition to the benefits of a healthy child, the program yields long-term results as essential dental care services to young people heighten the probability they will avoid severe health complications later in life.

The results speak for themselves:

- 6,000+ dental visits since 2001 (often the first visit ever for the child)
- 5,400+ Give Kids a Smile® Day dental visits (in Richmond alone) since 2004; Smart Smiles is a proud supporter of this program sponsored by the American Dental Association.
- 52,000+ children educated in oral health and hygiene instruction since 2001
- 68% reduction in cavities at the six-month checkup from the first exam
- 84% improvement in oral hygiene knowledge levels pre- to post-test

We are dedicated to improving the long-term oral health of low income children by facilitating access to dental care and oral health education via a combination of advocacy, financial resources and partnership with like-minded organizations all across Virginia.

How you can turn frowns upside down

Your involvement in Delta Dental's Smart Smiles can make a long-term impact in the life of a child. The need is great and the reward immeasurable. Won't you consider helping?

Dental practices and clinics can:

- Schedule weekly or monthly appointment blocks for small groups of participating children.
- See uninsured children occasionally for routine or specialized procedures.
- Donate toothbrushes, paste and floss.

Dentists, hygienists, dental assistants and students can:

- Teach oral health at your local school through our dental education curriculum, **Teeth on the Go 2.0**.
- Talk to children and their families about the importance of oral health.

Community organizations and individuals can:

- Provide financial support to cover the operational costs of the program, oral hygiene supplies and required dental services.

Rewards of donating your professional skills for community service

Our participating dental professionals enjoy working with the Smart Smiles program because it gives them the opportunity to fulfill a much-needed community service while doing what they love. Here is a summary of some of the rewards they have shared:

Investment in a child's future: The dental care you provide for a needy child today literally can set the course for their life by enhancing self-esteem and heightening the probability they will avoid severe health complications later in life.

Educational benefits: With a healthy smile, students can concentrate better and miss fewer school hours due to health issues. A proper education helps give children the boost they need to overcome poverty.

Smiles: Many children come in with severe dental issues that cause them to be withdrawn. It is rewarding to see a child bounce out of the chair with a smile when the problem is fixed.

By working with community partners and dedicated volunteers, Delta Dental is committed to the future of programs designed to improve oral health education and access. On a statewide level, we are continuing to explore ways to help all Virginians receive the oral health education and access to care they need to be healthy.

Teeth on the Go 2.0

Also developed by Delta Dental of Virginia and available free of charge to all nurse coordinators and teachers in Virginia elementary schools, **Teeth on the Go 2.0** is specifically designed to educate students on how to form good oral health habits. This fun, interactive curriculum targets students from Pre-K to 5th grade and addresses the importance of teeth to a child's overall health, the impact of nutrition on teeth and proper oral hygiene, and brushing and flossing techniques.

Give Kids A Smile® Day

Both a national and statewide event, Give Kids A Smile Day, sponsored by the American Dental Association, is designed to promote oral health care, education and awareness. The purpose is to address the epidemic of untreated oral disease and ongoing challenges low income children face in accessing dental care and to deliver the message that dentists alone cannot solve this problem without a real commitment from the entire community. In Virginia, free dental care and education are provided for children through the collaboration of Delta Dental, concerned dental professionals, school officials and countless volunteers.

Mission of Mercy (MOM)

As an outreach project of the Virginia Dental Health Foundation and Virginia Dental Association, Mission of Mercy projects are conducted in identified, underserved areas of the state where there are not enough dental practitioners to adequately address the oral health needs of the community. Through the collaborative efforts of dental professionals, volunteers and Delta Dental of Virginia, thousands of Virginians have received dental care since 2000. Virginia's MOM projects have set an unparalleled example for other states to follow by making a difference in the lives of others.