



For the Second Consecutive Year, NYS Dental Foundation Gives Six Worthy Organizations its NYSDF Give Kids a Smile Awards

The Board of Trustees of the New York State Dental Foundation today voted in favor of giving its NYSDF Give Kids a Smile Award to six worthy organizations from across the state.

(Coincidentally, the Foundation last year also gave out six awards.)

In 2007, the Foundation Board established a \$5,000 award to be given annually to a community health center or service program which seeks to build, expand or enhance education, access and/or capacity with respect to oral health care for children. The New York State Dental Foundation Give Kids a Smile Award was inspired in part by the American Dental Association's efforts to help children get the dental care that they so desperately need and to raise awareness that our children deserve a better health care system that addresses their dental health needs.

Applicants had to answer the following questions:

- Who is setting higher standards of oral health care and quality to better meet the challenges of the future?
- Who is driving innovation in oral health care delivery and improving oral health outcomes within our communities?
- Who is demonstrating the type of leadership and advocacy that is moving New York State in new directions to meet the oral health care needs of children?
- Does the potential nominee target education, screening and prevention, and access objectives in its parameters?

The Board voted in favor of awarding a \$5,000 NYSDF/GKAS award to each of the following applicants:

Cuba Memorial Hospital, Inc. – Cuba Memorial Hospital (CMH) has successfully operated an Article 28 Dental Clinic since 2001. In 2004 the hospital acquired a Diagnostic & Treatment Center in Andover, NY. This site now operates as a Article 28, full service family dental service. Both CMH clinics provided more than 14,000 visits to residents of Alleghany County in 2007. As one of the two providers for Medicaid patients, CMH strives to increase access to dental care and education. In this rural area, the CMH dental clinics increasingly need to find sources of revenue to support their mission. Currently, only one dentist in Alleghany County accepts Medicaid patients; one provider in the region accepts Child Health Plus. This leaves the dentist-to-patient ratio at 0:11,447 for the Medicaid population. The ADA recommends a dentist-to-patient ratio of 1:2000; in Alleghany County, the ratio of dentist-to-entire-population is 1:6000 (in smaller communities) to 1:14,000 (in larger areas). CMH expects the volume of patients to continue to grow, making awards like the NYSDF GKAS Award an essential tool to allow the hospital to move forward with innovative ways to deliver dental care. In 2008, CMH will move forward with a school based dental program, which will educate children and families on positive dental health, especially as it affects overall health. CMH's expanded dental clinic outreach will increase the access to health care professionals and address the promotion of health through increased awareness of dental health wellness issues and prevention for the children in rural Alleghany County. The current clinic's success, and plan for school based dental care, includes the recruitment of two new dentists to the area, again showing its commitment to increase access to care. The officials at CMH realize that the problems faced by many families, especially the working poor, is a lack of time for anything but immediate medical emergencies. As such, dental care often is not viewed as a priority health care issue until a problem surfaces. CMH's school based program will provide a good "first" experience, in a comfortable, familiar setting alleviating anxiety for many younger students. Continued, routine care each year will encourage students to be proactive in their own self dental care, something they may not be educated to at home. CMH will also provide education to parents so that they can be proactive in the treatment of the entire family.

North Country Children's Clinic – The primary focus of North Country Children's Clinic (NCCC) is to provide primary health care to families with children who are impoverished or underprivileged. For years, NCCC has set the standard in Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence Counties for oral health education and quality care delivery to children and families. The NCCC dental program, begun in 1991, serves clients who otherwise would not have access to dental care at clinic sites and through school-based health centers. An increasing number of children seen in the clinics have existing dental caries at the time of their first visit. A primary cause is lack of exposure to fluoridated water or to fluoride supplements combined with parents unfamiliar with healthy habits that prevent oral disease. NCCC's Dental Services program most recently began collaborating with the WIC program to offer preventive oral health services to clients with babies and/or young children and expectant mothers as a way to enhance oral health educational outreach and increase access to care. The North Country demonstrates critical need regarding oral health in children: the Jefferson County 2005-2010 Community Health Assessment states that among third graders, 66.1 percent have caries experience; 57.4 percent have untreated caries; only 25.3 percent have dental sealants, and only 13.2

percent take fluoride tablets regularly. All of these indicators are outside of statewide rates, and no Healthy People 2010 goals by comparison are being met. NCCC is relied upon and recognized for its leadership in addressing gaps in oral health in the state required Municipal Public Health Services Plan and Community Health Assessments completed by the local health departments in the three counties. NCCC will use \$5,000 NYSDF GKAS award to expand its preventive dental program by obtaining additional, needed educational materials, fluoride varnish, and oral health aides to provide to families.

St. Charles Hospital Dental Clinic – Approximately 50 voluntary NYSDA member dentists comprise the attending dental staff at St. Charles Hospital. Each of these dentists volunteers a minimum of one-half day per month administering supervision and care to patients at St. Charles' Dental Clinic, which provides a full range of dental services to more than 1,200 pediatric patients annually. The mission is to provide compassionate care through preventive and restorative dental services for all patients, including those with physical and developmental disabilities. Since the Clinic's inception, thousands of underprivileged and medically and physically challenged children have received critically needed dental services, including preventative, restorative, surgical and orthodontic treatment. When necessary, patients also receive treatment in the operating room under general anesthesia. The hospital's early mission of serving children with disabilities remains a focal point; referrals to the Clinic come from Maryhaven Center of Hope, United Cerebral Palsy, Little Flower Children and Family Services, the Epilepsy Foundation and the Association for the Help of Retarded Children. In addition, hospital inpatients and Traumatic Brain Injury Unit patients are treated in the Dental Department. St. Charles' Dental General Practice Residency Program, begun in 1970, is the only hospital-based Dental General Practice Residency program in the nation with an all-volunteer dental teaching staff. Dental residents receive extensive training in child behavior management and care of the special needs patient, and are given the ability and instilled with the desire to continue delivering dental treatment to this patient population even after program completion. Dental residents also engage in several outreach programs, including visiting schools with large indigent populations, presenting school-based dental syllabi that includes quizzes, instructional videos, prevention and oral health discussions for children ages 5-9. St. Charles Hospital Dental Clinic is actively involved in the ADA's Give Kids a Smile Program, partnering with Stony Brook University to provide oral health examinations and evaluations for children, many of whom have never had a dental experience.

Tri-County Dental Clinics – In 1992, Tri-County Memorial Hospital, after identifying their service area as a Dental Health Provider Shortage Area (HPSA) with essentially no providers who accepted Medicaid patients, partnered with a local dental provider to open an Article 28 Dental Clinic in Gowanda. Since inception, the mission of this clinic has been to focus on special needs clients as well as uninsured and underinsured residents of Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Southern Erie Counties. The dedicated staff of the Tri-County Dental Clinic (TCDC) improved access to oral health care further in the mid 1990s, when they procured the funding to create additional practice sites serving Medicaid, under-insured, uninsured and the community in general. After being

instrumental in the development and design of the Cuba Memorial Hospital Dental Clinic in Allegany County (another 2008 GKAS winner), TCDC focused on establishing a satellite clinic in Salamanca in 2002, a facility which serves a low-income population with 58 percent of the visits being Medicaid patients. TCDC has consistently played an advocacy and leadership role in a number of coalitions, groups and volunteer initiatives whose goals were to improve the oral care and increase access among underserved populations. TCD has identified a need to continue screening children especially in the pre-kindergarten to second grade age level when they can have the most impact on a child's developing oral health care. This award would be essential in implementing dental health services to these underserved children. In addition, it would allow the clinic to send a dental hygienist to area schools on a monthly basis to educate students in proper brushing and flossing. This comprehensive community program, encompassing preventative care, education, treatment and referral services, will be provided through linkage with local school districts such as Cattaraugus, Chautauqua and Southern Erie Counties, which have a high proportion of children enrolled in the free lunch program and poor access to dental care. Pre-school aged children that are at risk for dental disease will be reached through linkage with the Head Start Programs. A pediatric dentist has already been recruited to support the program. The comprehensive scope of services provided will enhance the oral health and increase access to oral health care for more than 2,000 children in the specified communities who are at risk for preventable dental disease. Additionally, those children in need of further care will be referred to their family dentist for follow-up, or, if there is no family dentist, to the nearest Article 28 clinic.

Charles B. Wang Community Health Center – The mission of the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center is to provide accessible, high quality primary care and social services to underserved Asian Americans in New York City. Established in 1971, the Health Center is a nationally recognized leader in delivering culturally competent health care to Manhattan's growing Asian American population. The majority of patients are low income, foreign born and non-English speaking. The Health Center's dental department seeks to improve the oral health of children in the community by providing bilingual, culturally sensitive outreach and education. The Charles B. Wang staff can speak multiple dialects of Chinese; nearly 98 percent of patients are served in a language other than English. Providers here also include a pediatric dentist who works closely with children and their parents to emphasize prevention and good oral health practice. Last year, the Dental Department served 1,400 children generating about 4,100 visits. In addition to culturally competent services, the Dental Department has initiated innovative approaches to promote children's access to dental care, such as using the proximity of the Health Center's Pediatric Department, a very child-friendly location, as a library and teen resource center for children awaiting dental care. In so doing, children learn to be less afraid to visit the dental clinic because they see the Health Center as a welcoming, friendly environment. They have also created a direct referral program for pregnant women who participate in the Center's Prenatal Care Assistance Program, which educates on baby bottle tooth decay and the importance of prevention and regular dental checkups. The dental staff conducts regular outreach to schools, daycares, Head Start, PCAP and WIC programs, and each summer, conducts dental screenings for children as

part of its annual health fair. To name just one more in a very impressive list of accomplishments and endeavors, the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center also conducts needs assessments and clinical research to improve understanding of the oral health needs of Chinese immigrant children. Partnerships to that end, such as with New York University Dental School, which found that children in Chinatown had a 40 percent higher caries rate than the general population, will help in planning appropriate services for the community.

Wayne County Action Program, Inc., Head Start – The Wayne County Head Start program is setting higher standard of oral health care and quality by requiring dental exams to enter the program for the past 30 years, working with local dentists to provide those exams, and educating parents on the importance of early dental care. Their follow-up system helps ensure that over 80 percent of children annually get the dental treatment they need, which has helped to improve oral health outcomes within the Wayne County community. The Wayne County Head Start would like to use the NYSDF GKAS Award to enhance education and access with respect to oral health care for poverty level, one-to-five year old children in rural upstate Wayne County. Their proposal is three-fold: \$1,000 to support additional parent education on the importance of early dental care; \$1,000 to fund increased transportation services to Rochester area dental services, and \$3,000 to make an initial deposit toward services if there is no other coverage available the parent has made extensive efforts to acquire dental coverage for their child in need. The program would like \$1,000 to purchase/develop an appropriate information booklet that would be given to every parent when the initial application for enrollment is taken, and the parent is given the physical and dental forms to be completed. This booklet would be referred to during the initial home visit when the child's health history is being completed, and the parent would be encouraged to begin restorative services as soon as the dental is completed. If, within 45 days of enrollment in the Head Start, the parent has not been able to secure dental follow-up for their child, Wayne County Head Start's Health Coordinator would ensure that another home visit occurs to establish a plan to eliminate barriers to dental treatment for that child.