



Marinette Oconto County Dental Society • Shawano County Dental Society • Waupaca County Dental Society  
Outagamie County Dental Association • Brown Door Kewaunee Dental Society  
Manitowoc Calumet County Dental Society • Winnebago County Dental Society  
Fond du Lac County Dental Society • Sheboygan County Dental Society

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**Wisconsin dentists donating \$719,000 in care to 6,250 children for Give Kids A Smile®**

WEST ALLIS, WIS., Feb. 2, 2010 – An estimated 350 Wisconsin dentists will volunteer their time and skills, along with 934 dental team members, dental, hygiene and assisting students, faculty and community advocates, to donate more than \$719,000 in oral health care and education to 6,253 of the state’s low-income children **this Friday, Feb. 5** and during upcoming weeks as part of the eighth annual [Give Kids A Smile®](#) children’s dental access program.

Statewide, \$3.4 million has been provided in charitable dental care to 23,000 low-income children since 2003 when the [Wisconsin Dental Association](#) joined with the [American Dental Association](#) in launching GKAS during February’s [National Children’s Dental Health Month](#).

GKAS 2010 will be marked nationwide by 12,780 dentists joining with 36,490 other volunteers to provide care to 322,885 children at 1,983 events. These outreach projects vary from large-scale dental clinics delivering exams, cleanings and fluoride treatments to individual dentists providing fillings, extractions and crowns to underserved children in their private practices to dental professionals offering screenings and educational programs in various locations.

In Wisconsin, the WDA and member dentists work with the [state’s Department of Health Services](#), local government agencies, public schools, Head Start, Boys & Girls Clubs and other youth and community organizations to identify low-income children with the greatest need for dental treatment.

GKAS activities are supported by significant corporate donations from Colgate-Palmolive Company, DEXIS® Digital X-ray and Henry Schein Dental. WDA Professional Services Division’s The Dental Record makes children’s dental record forms available to Wisconsin GKAS events.

The 16-county WDA Northeast Region will feature GKAS events in several communities this Friday. Activities scheduled for other dates or with available patient slots are specifically noted.

**Appleton**

- Dr. David Emmanuel and his dental office team will provide preventive and restorative dental services along with oral hygiene education to 10 children.
- Dr. Richard Salm and his Midwest Dental team has scheduled appointments for 15 children to provide

## **DENTISTS DONATING CARE TO NEEDY KIDS FOR EIGHTH YEAR – 2**

them with needed preventive and restorative dental care.

- Dr. Pete Hehli and Dr. Chad Isken's Northstar Dental Group, with help from Dental Crafters Lab, will provide comprehensive dental care and necessary follow-up treatment for 40 young patients.
- Once again, Dr. Dale Scharine and his dental team will be providing dental services to 14 children enrolled in the Fox Cities Big Brothers Big Sisters program.
- Tri-County Community Dental Clinic is coordinating care for 100 children, ages 4 to 17, from **Calumet**, **Outagamie** and **Winnebago** counties. Volunteers include 21 dentists and numerous support staff. Care will be provided at the clinic and in multiple private dental offices.

**Chilton** – For the sixth year, Drs. Michael Baus and Mariah Murphy and their team are providing education, screenings and treatment as needed to 50 children.

### **Fond du Lac**

- Dr. Kathleen Doyle-Kelly and seven members of her dental practice team will welcome 30 children to the office for preventive services and instruction in good daily oral hygiene practices.
- Dr. Kenneth Scholz and his team are working with Fond du Lac County to provide preventive and restorative dental services to approximately 15 youth.

### **Green Bay**

- Dr. Heidi Eggers-Ulve will examine and provide oral health education for all children enrolled in Head Start in the Green Bay School District. Many of these children will receive follow-up treatment throughout the year and periodic fluoride treatments provided by other area dentists. All children receive toothbrushes and other home care items.
- Drs. Chris Hansen and Daniel Tache and their University Dental team will perform cleanings, X-rays, fluoride treatment and exams for 24 pre-school and elementary children. Restorative treatment will be provided as needed.
- Dr. Jamie Minarik and the Midwest Dental Green Bay East clinic staff will provide preventive and restorative dental services to six children, with Dr. Julie Farrell and the Green Bay West clinic team treating 15 children.
- Dr. Matthew Nelson and his dental team are using GKAS as an opportunity to help 20 children in the community who are otherwise unable to receive regular dental care.
- Through Oral Health Partnership, two dentists and 10 additional volunteer dental professionals will provide exams, cleanings, X-rays, fluoride treatments and some fillings to uninsured or Medicaid children.
- Dr. Rebecca Van Miller and her team will screen 50 children and provide needed follow-up treatment.
- Dr. Martin Williams and six other volunteers are helping underserved children in the area get the dental treatment they need.

## **DENTISTS DONATING CARE TO NEEDY KIDS FOR EIGHTH YEAR – 3**

### **Manitowoc**

- Dental Park dentists and staff are working with the local health department to identify 20 low-income children in need of exams, preventive services and restorative care.
- Seven local dentists with help from 40 other volunteers will provide free dental care to 100 children in need as part of the Healthy Teeth Healthy Kids program.
- Once again, Drs. Michael Orchekowski and Dan Beaupre and their Lakeshore Dental team are providing an estimated \$15,000 in dental services, including preventive and restorative care and oral hygiene education to 12 local children in need.
- Dr. Noemi Garcia and her Midwest Dental team will provide comprehensive dental care and education to seven youngsters.

**Neenah** – Dr. Dino Bordini and a colleague with help from seven Midwest Dental clinic staffers will provide cleanings, fluoride treatments and sealants to eight local children.

**Oshkosh** – Dr. Allen Deaton from Midwest Dental's Oshkosh North clinic and Dr. Brad Melhus at the Oshkosh South location along with their dental teams will provide preventive and restorative dental services to an estimated 45 children.

### **Plymouth**

- Drs. Sherry Joseph and Joseph White's dental practice is again gearing up to provide oral hygiene education, exams, cleanings, dental sealants and fluoride treatment to 36 children.
- Dr. Peter Muehleis and the local Midwest Dental clinic staff will provide preventive and restorative dental care to 10 youngsters.

### **Sheboygan**

- Dr. Linda Bryce and staff will again offer basic dental services to 20 area youth.
- Dr. Jaime Marchi and Just Kids Dental will treat cavities in eight children, ages 3 to 6, found through prescreening.
- Twenty-five Sheboygan County Dental Society dentists, volunteers from their dental teams and the Sheboygan County Dental Access Committee will provide more than 315 children with free exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments, fillings and other necessary treatments at various offices. The event is coordinated by Midwest Dental's Dr. Robert Darling.

**Sturgeon Bay** – Door County Memorial Hospital Dental Clinic, a year-round free clinic sponsored by the hospital, expects to see 75 young people for preventive services, restorative care and personal oral hygiene education. The Door County Health Department and Social Services and Hispanic Resource Center also are assisting with the clinic's GKAS efforts.

Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease affecting American children – five times more common than asthma. The [National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research](#) reports 80 percent of tooth decay is found in just 25 percent of children, the majority of whom are in low-income families.

## DENTISTS DONATING CARE TO NEEDY KIDS FOR EIGHTH YEAR – 4

Moderate tooth decay during childhood restricts physical development, decreases the ability to learn and requires frequent emergency room visits and hospitalization. In some cases, untreated oral disease has been linked to more catastrophic illness, such as an abscess that led to a 12-year-old Maryland boy's death in 2007.

The WDA, ADA and [American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry](#) recommend children be examined by a dentist within six months of the eruption of the first tooth and no later than age 1.

According to a February 2005 [Children's Dental Health Project](#) report, low-income children who have their first dental exam by age 1 are less likely to visit emergency rooms for oral health problems or require restorative care. In addition, 5-year-olds who had their first dental visit at age 1 have incurred oral health-related costs at a rate about one-half that of their peers who don't see a dentist until age 5.

The [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (physicians) calls for 20 percent of all health care funds spent on children to be directed at improving and maintaining their oral health.

In Wisconsin, about 1 million low-income children and adults, or 20 percent of state residents, are beneficiaries of Medicaid, BadgerCare and BadgerCare Plus programs at some point during a given year. State fee-for-service data for fiscal year 2006 (most recent available) shows that while medical assistance patients received \$74 million in dental care, the state and federal governments paid just \$32 million or 44 percent of those charges. This means dentists donated the remaining \$42 million in care to MA patients or more than the Wisconsin and U.S. governments combined paid for.

"GKAS and nonreimbursed MA care are just two examples of how [Wisconsin dentists do serve](#) their communities and make a difference for underserved children and adults through charitable care in their private practices and by volunteering at [community dental clinics](#), the [WDA Mission of Mercy](#) and other outreach programs," explains [WDA President Dr. Kent Vandehaar](#) of Chippewa Falls, Wis.

"However, charity alone is not a sufficient oral health care delivery system," Vandehaar points out. "Low-income patients suffer for various reasons: failure to care for their own oral health; inability to find a dental office for routine care, because small businesses can't absorb too much income loss; and, lawmakers' failure to sufficiently fund the dental care they have promised."

Despite access-to-care concerns for the underserved and medical assistance population, the [Kaiser Family Foundation "State Health Facts" Web site](#) shows 73.2 percent of Wisconsin residents had their teeth cleaned by a dental professional in 2008 compared to 71.3 percent nationally.

A [March 2009 USA Today article](#) ranks Wisconsin seventh in the nation in percentage of residents who have seen a dentist in the last 12 months.

*The Wisconsin Dental Association was established in 1870. With more than 2,900 members statewide, the WDA represents 83 percent of all licensed, practicing dentists in Wisconsin. WDA members are committed to promoting professional excellence and quality oral health care. The WDA is headquartered in West Allis and has a legislative office in Madison. It is one of 53 constituent dental societies of the American Dental Association - the largest and oldest national dental association in the world. The Northeast Region serves the counties of Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee,*

**DENTISTS DONATING CARE TO NEEDY KIDS FOR EIGHTH YEAR – 5**

*Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Sheboygan, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago. The WDA is one of 53 constituent (state-territorial) dental societies of the ADA - the largest and oldest national dental association in the world. For more information on the WDA, call 414-276-4520, visit our [WDA.org](http://WDA.org) Web site and find us on [Facebook](#).*

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