



Northwest Region

Central Wisconsin Dental Society • Northern Wisconsin Dental Society
Northwest District Dental Society

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MEDIA ALERT: Photo Ops – February is [National Children’s Dental Health Month](#)

Editor’s Note: Most Wisconsin GKAS® events preregister children through agencies, schools and social service clubs. **Please do not indicate an event is open to unregistered children unless specified.**

Give Kids A Smile® providing local children with needed dental care for 10 years

WEST ALLIS, WIS., Jan. 31, 2012 – More than 5,650 low-income Wisconsin children will receive \$945,000 in donated dental care this Friday, Feb. 3 and during upcoming weeks, as part of the 10th annual [Give Kids A Smile®](#) children’s dental access program.

At least 475 Wisconsin dentists, along with 540-plus dental team members, dental, hygiene and assisting students, faculty and community advocates are volunteering their time and skills to get underserved children out of pain and treat dental disease with fillings, extractions and crowns. Other events involve dental health screenings, cleanings and oral hygiene education. GKAS® activities are taking place in private dental practices, large-scale clinics, classrooms and community centers in at least 55 communities statewide.

The [Wisconsin Dental Association](#) and member dentists work with the state’s [Department of Health Services](#), local government agencies, schools, [Head Start](#) and youth and community organizations to identify low-income children in need of dental treatment.

[Baby teeth matter](#) to a child’s physical, social and emotional development. Kids can keep their back teeth – the ones they chew with – until their early teens.

Tooth decay is a serious and transmissible disease that can lead to infection without proper precautions. Early childhood cavities are four times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever among America’s children according to the [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services “Healthy People 2010” report](#).

In the Badger State, [DHS reports](#) 25 percent of Head Start children ages 3 and 4 have untreated decay and 33 percent have had cavities and now have fillings.

“The good news is childhood cavities are preventable,” says [WDA President Dr. Steven Stoll](#), a general dentist in [Neenah](#), Wis.

The 27-county [WDA Northwest Region](#) will feature GKAS® events in several communities this Friday. Activities scheduled for other dates or with available patient slots are noted.

Abbotsford – Drs. Christina and Troy Rens and their dental clinic team will again provide free dental

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exams and sealants to an estimated 125 second graders enrolled in Abbotsford and Colby public schools. A Clark County public health nurse will present dental health information and schedule follow-up care for children as needed. Dental goody bags are made available with the support of the Abbotsford Lions Club.

Amery – Dental Arts’ four dentists and staff will welcome 52 children for necessary preventive and restorative services.

Antigo – The father-daughter dental team of Drs. Timothy and Meghan O’Brien and their Antigo Dental Clinic staff will provide some 50 youngsters with dental examinations, teeth cleanings and necessary preventive and restorative care.

Baldwin – The Midwest Dental Baldwin team will provide seven children with free preventive care, including dental sealants and fluoride rinse or varnish, along with treatment of any cavities.

Eau Claire – More than a dozen [Northwest District Dental Society](#) member dentists are teaming up with dental hygiene and assisting students at Chippewa Valley Technical College to provide preventive and restorative care and oral hygiene education to 200 children.

In addition, four dentists and 19 staff at Midwest Dental’s Oakwood and South offices have scheduled appointments for 50 underprivileged children to receive needed dental health care.

Hudson – Dr. Julie Leshner and her Dentistry on Vine team will provide preventive and restorative care to 15 – 20 children between the ages of 2 and 18. Follow-up care is scheduled as needed. In addition, Leshner will give presentations on good oral health practices at child care centers and elementary schools throughout February – National Children’s Dental Health Month.

Pediatric dentist Dr. Andy Mancini, with the help of his La Petite Dentistry staff, will provide needed preventive and restorative services to 45 children in recognition of GKAS®. In addition, one pound of nonperishable food will be donated to the local food bank for every child seen at the practice on Friday.

Hurley – Dr. Paul Hagemann and eight other volunteers will provide dental screenings and fluoride varnish to 70 youngsters. Parents will receive oral health education materials, too.

Medford – The Medford Dental Clinic team worked with the Parent Resource Center to identify families in need of basic dental services. In addition, clinic staff will discuss good personal oral hygiene habits as part of a “lunch & learn” program at the center.

Merrill - The Midwest Dental office on East Main Street is scheduling at least 12 children for basic preventive and restorative services.

Minocqua – Throughout the school year, two dentists and 16 other volunteers will provide 1,300 children in area elementary schools and Head Start programs with free dental screenings, fluoride varnish applications and oral health education as part of the Northwoods Dental Project’s Healthy Smiles effort.

New Richmond – Nine children, ages 5 – 15, will receive basic preventive treatments and necessary restorative care at Dr. Luke Foster’s Midwest Dental office.

River Falls – Dr. Katrina Leano’s Midwest Dental team will provide preventive treatment and necessary restorative care for 23 youngsters.

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Spring Valley – Dr. Dan Connors' Spring Valley Dentistry will open its doors to 12 elementary and middle school students for much-needed care. A classroom presentation for local students is also planned.

Stevens Point – Midwest Dental on Church Street will provide 12 youngsters with preventive treatment and necessary restorative care.

Tomahawk – Dr. Dean Hussong and his six-person team will celebrate GKAS® on **Thursday, Feb. 2**. The staff worked with the Tomahawk School District to identify 32 children in urgent need of dental care.

Wausau – Cherry Tree Dental will be a busy place on Friday with Dr. Jennifer Havel and staff tending to the oral health needs of a possible 40 youngsters.

The Midwest Dental team on 24th Avenue, South will provide 20 children, from 1 to 14 years old, with basic oral health care and oral hygiene instruction.

Weston – Dr. Christy Gajewski and her Midwest Dental clinic staff will donate needed preventive and restorative treatment to 11 local children.

Since 2003, GKAS® events in Wisconsin have delivered \$5 million in free dental care to 34,281 youth.

“Charity isn't an effective or efficient way of reducing barriers to dental care. Dentists are glad to donate their time and skills, but we also want to work with lawmakers to help the state make '[Healthy Choices](#)' for the long term,” Stoll adds.

GKAS® activities are supported, in part, nationwide with donations from [Henry Schein Dental](#), [Colgate](#) and [DEXIS®](#). [WDA Insurance and Services Corp.](#) offers pediatric dental forms to Wisconsin GKAS® events through [The Dental Record](#) under its Professional Services Division.

For more information on the WDA, call 414-276-4520, visit our [WDA.org](#) website or find us on [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

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