



**Southeast Region**

Washington Ozaukee Dental Society • Waukesha County Dental Society  
Burlington Dental Association • Racine Dental Association  
Kenosha County Dental Society • Rock County 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 seven-county [WDA Southeast Region](#) will feature GKAS® events in several communities this Friday. Activities scheduled for other dates or with available patient slots are specifically noted.

**Brookfield** – Midwest Dental’s Dr. Jason Wecht and his four-person staff has scheduled 12 young people

## 10 YEARS OF FREE DENTAL CARE FOR WISCONSIN KIDS – 2

between the ages of five and 17 for dental screenings and preventive treatments. Children needing treatment for dental infections will be scheduled for follow-up appointments.

**Evansville** – Dr. Anna Botts and her Midwest Dental team will provide 30 children, ages three to 17, with important preventive care, including exams, teeth cleaning, sealants and fluoride treatments. Kids with dental disease will also receive any necessary treatment.

**Janesville** – Four dentists and 20 staff at Robinson & Prijic Family Dental Associates on Randall Avenue worked with local officials and community programs to identify 100 children between the ages of four and 12 in need of dental care.

**Kenosha** – Gateway Technical College's dental assistant students are teaming up with three area dentists on **Wednesday, Feb. 8** to provide 120 members of the local Boys and Girls Club with basic oral health exams and educational presentations on the importance of brushing, flossing and good nutrition. Children needing follow-up care will be seen by the dentists after Friday.

**Kewaskum** – Dr. Stephen Van Ess and staff will provide comprehensive dental care by appointment to 12 students from local schools.

**Pewaukee** – The Midwest Dental office is scheduling 10 youngsters, ages two to 15, for needed care and preventive treatments.

**Racine County** – Twenty-five [Racine County Dental Society](#) members and dozens of volunteer staff, are again partnering with the nonprofit Health Care Network of Racine to provide 60 needy youngsters with critical dental care. The children will be examined at the State Street clinic on **Friday, Feb. 10**. Some may be referred out to volunteer dentists' private practices for additional care in the coming days and weeks.

**Union Grove** – The Family Dentists' team will provide 30 children with dental exams, cleanings and X-rays, along with any necessary treatment for tooth decay.

The six-person Midwest Dental team on Main Street has 15 children scheduled for dental exams, cleanings, preventive care and necessary restorative treatment.

**Waukesha** – Nine [Waukesha County Dental Society](#) dentists, along with 30 other dental staff and community volunteers are working with Waukesha County Community Dental Clinic to provide 45 children with necessary oral health care. Kids' care will include X-rays, teeth cleanings, dental exams, sealants, treatment for tooth decay and instruction in basic oral hygiene.

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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