
NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hundreds of Hoosier kids to receive free dental care tomorrow

Hoosier children who might otherwise have difficulty obtaining dental treatment will receive free care **tomorrow** through the Indiana Dental Association's seventh annual Give Kids a Smile Day.

The program is designed for children who can't afford regular care and who have no access to dental insurance. Around 200 volunteer dentists across the state will be providing free care to more than 1,800 Hoosier kids. Most children were referred to the program by school nurses.

"Good oral health begins with early treatment and prevention," said Dr. Mark Stetzel, President of the Indiana Dental Association. "Give Kids a Smile offers our profession the opportunity to reach out to underserved populations where we can reinforce positive habits and create a lasting appreciation for good oral health."

"We hope the day will help draw attention to the importance of preventive dental care, especially for children," said IDA Executive Director Doug Bush. "Dental disease can be avoided when common-sense preventive measures are followed. We're hopeful that parents whose children are treated through Give Kids a Smile will follow up by establishing a 'dental home' for their families, where lasting relationships with dentists will keep them on the road to good dental health."

A partial list of participating dental offices can be found online at www.indental.org. **NOTE: These offices are not accepting new appointments for Give Kids a Smile Day.**

About Give Kids a Smile

Give Kids a Smile is a national program sponsored by the American Dental Association and administered in Indiana by the Indiana Dental Association. In 2008, dental offices in Indiana provided more than \$504,000 in comprehensive treatment to underserved Hoosier children. National program information is available online at: www.ada.org/prof/events/featured/gkas/index.asp.

About the Indiana Dental Association

Founded in 1858 and with membership topping 2,800, the Indiana Dental Association represents more than 83 percent of dentists in the state. The IDA's central office is located in downtown Indianapolis. The mission of the IDA is to support dentists, promote professionalism and improve oral health.

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