



Connecticut State Dental Association

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**CONNECTICUT'S DENTAL COMMUNITY PROVIDES MORE THAN
\$200,000 IN DENTAL SERVICES TO 655 CHILDREN IN THE STATE**
The Connecticut State Dental Association releases the 2011 Give Kids A Smile Report

SOUTHINGTON, CT – Give Kids A Smile is “more than just a day,” providing children throughout Connecticut with oral health education and free dental services. Connecticut’s dental community donated their time to help reinforce the importance of oral health care and provided \$236,691 worth of donated dental services to 655 children throughout the State.

According to the Connecticut State Dental Association (CSDA), Give Kids A Smile was implemented in Connecticut in 2004. Give Kids A Smile is a national program sponsored by the American Dental Association (ADA), and kicks off each year in February as part of National Children’s Dental Health Month.

“Give Kids A Smile is about providing children with the resources they need to lead healthy lives,” said Dr. Elise Cozzi, chair of the CSDA Give Kids A Smile program. “Oral health plays a key role in overall health and we believe it is important to teach our young children how to succeed in obtaining and maintaining good oral health.”

Since its inception in 2002, the Give Kids A Smile program has treated millions of underserved children throughout the country. According to the ADA, 23 million American children do not have dental insurance, and nearly half of all tooth decay in children ages 2-9 goes untreated, oftentimes leading to costly hospital visits for emergency dental treatments.

“Connecticut children are able to receive dental services through programs such as Give Kids A Smile, Connecticut Mission of Mercy and other free dental days offered by private offices, as well as screenings at local health fairs,” said Dr. Tatiana Barton, president of the CSDA. “Although, these types of programs serve as wonderful resources, it is imperative that Connecticut continue to work toward improving access and utilization for both children and adults.”

The 2011 Give Kids A Smile Report can be found on the CSDA website and reports on services that were reported to the CSDA between February 4 through May 30.

Access the 2011 Give Kids A Smile Report:

http://www.csda.com/gkas/2011/GKAS_Summary2011.pdf

About Connecticut State Dental Association

The [Connecticut State Dental Association](http://www.csda.com) (CSDA) has 2,670 members including dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants. As the trusted leader and voice for oral health care in Connecticut, the CSDA has advocated for the public's health and promoted the art and science of dentistry since 1864. For more information about the CSDA, visit the Association's Web site at www.csda.com.

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