



Connecticut State Dental Association

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LOCAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN'S CONTINUED NEED FOR DENTAL CARE

The American Dental Associations Give Kids A Smile® kicks off on February 3, 2012

SOUTHINGTON, CT— The [Connecticut State Dental Association](http://www.cdda.com) (CSDA) is proud to announce that February 3, 2012 marks the kick-off of Give Kids A Smile® initiative, a national program sponsored by the American Dental Association. The Give Kids A Smile program provides children from local low-income families with free dental services ranging from screenings and cleanings to fillings and sealant applications.

“Give Kids A Smile is about preventing dental disease before it begins,” said Dr. Elise Cozzi, CSDA Give Kids A Smile Chair. “We are proud of the accomplishments of the program and Give Kids A Smile serves as a reminder of the importance of oral health.”

Connecticut state agencies and the dental community have done a lot of work to increase the dental services that are offered to the children throughout the State. Give Kids A Smile is just one small way dentists are helping protect our children’s oral health and raise awareness of the continued need for dental care.

Oral health is integral to overall health. Untreated dental disease is painful and affects a child’s physical, emotional and social development. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 1 in 4 children between the ages of 2 to 11, has untreated cavities in their baby teeth. While poor diet and oral hygiene certainly play a role, cavities are actually caused by a disease called caries, which is five times more common than asthma.

Dental disease is preventable. Brushing, flossing, eating a balanced diet, regular dental visits and having access to fluoride and sealants are ways to prevent dental disease. Ultimately, the money spent on prevention saves a lot more money down the road in dental treatment.

For a list of some of the upcoming Give Kids A Smile programs taking place throughout the State visit, <http://www.cdda-public.com/CharitableCalendar/CharitableCalendar.html>.

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