



OAK PARK RIVER FOREST

Infant Welfare Society

Sponsors of The Children's Clinic

## In the News | 7-2014

### Dental Teams Inform and Educate During NCDHM, GKAS

Illinois State Dental Society member dentists and their teams blanketed the state to carry the message of good oral health to hundreds of children in celebration of National Children's Dental Health Month and Give Kids a Smile Day. Here are a few of the highlights of the many activities that took place across Illinois.

Drs. Mary Hayes, Marilia Montero-Fayad, and Joanne Oppenheim of Pediatric Dental Health Associates, along with a cadre of dental staff, general practice residents, and a local Chicago alderman sought to carry the message of Smiles for Chicago.

During the month of February, the group touched some 555 students, 36 pediatricians, and 15 infants and their mothers. The effort was focused on raising community awareness of the importance of good oral health from birth.

In Glen Ellyn, Dr. Vincent Versaci visited Hadley Junior High and spoke to special education students about proper oral hygiene, healthy food choices, and the importance of visiting the dentist. The students also learned about the Toothsavers Brushing Game app in which players must save the fairytale kingdom with their toothbrushes after an evil sorceress casts a spell leaving everyone's mouths to be overrun by cavities.

Midwestern University College of Dental Medicine and the DuPage County Health Department offered free dental care for children at the DuPage Clinic. Screenings, oral hygiene instruction, and entertainment were provided.

Faculty and students also visited a local elementary school and the DuPage Children's Museum. Over the course of several days the school provided dental screenings, oral health instruction, sealants, dental cleanings, and fluoride application for nearly 90 children.

The Illini District Dental Society partnered with the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District and Parkland College Hygiene Program to provide education and dental cleanings to some 100 children. The event also provided children and families access to various local organizations and fun activities including thumbprint making with the U of I Pre-dental Club, information about mouth guards from the Twin City girls' roller derby team, balloon animals from The Balloon Guy, face painting compliments of the Carle Clinic Oral Surgery department, and the opportunity to meet ISDS's very own Flossy.



The Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society Children's Clinic hosted a Brush-a-thon at Pershing Elementary School in Berwyn. Dr. Fresh donated Firefly toothbrushes, which flash at the touch of a button. As event organizer Katie O'Brien described it, "This resulted in a two-minute frenzy of tooth brushing by 70 wildly-enthusiastic second graders." The clinic's Oral Health Director Dr. Lynse Briney emceed the event, which included remarks from Dr. David Miller, Chief of the Division of Oral Health, Illinois Department of Public Health; Berwyn Mayor Robert J. Lovero; Oral Health America President and CEO Beth Truett; State Rep. Lisa Hernandez; and other dignitaries.

Brush Pediatric Dentistry in Hinsdale reached more than 750 preschool and kindergarten children with the help of their puppet Dudley the Dinosaur. The group visited 14 schools and delivered a 30-minute interactive presentation on the importance of daily dental health care. Dudley demonstrated what a visit to the dentist entails and the children played the game "Tooth Hooray or Tooth Decay" to learn about healthy snacks. Each child received a goodie bag with information for parents as well as a new toothbrush.

Dr. Jerry Udelson and his team at Children's Dentistry in Forest Park visited with nearly 1,000 children at 15 area schools and groups. The program focused on the magic number 2 – Brush two minutes twice a day and see the dentist twice a year.

Carol Giometti, office manager in Dr. Ronald Giometti's office visited Hanover Highlands Elementary School in Hanover Park where she presented a PowerPoint presentation to 120 fourth graders. The students also examined plaster models and viewed X-rays and played a true or false game to learn about proper dental health. ■

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