Delta Dental Foundation awards $25,000 in grants to improve oral health in North Carolina

RALEIGH, N.C., (Nov. XX, 2012) — The Delta Dental Foundation announced the recipients of its annual Smiles for Kids program designed to support activities that address the oral health needs of children in North Carolina.

The Delta Dental Smiles for Kids program was launched statewide in 2011. Winners are selected based on the activity’s focus on children, potential value to the community, measurable results and community involvement. Eight grants totaling $25,000 were awarded to local projects aimed at improving children’s oral health.

The recipients are:

• **Alamance Caswell Give Kids a Smile Foundation** in Burlington received a $5,000 grant for the Give Kids a Smile event that utilizes dental professionals and volunteers from the community to provide dental treatment to those in need.

• **Duplin County Mobile Dental Unit/Duplin County Health Services (DCHS)** in Kenansville received a $3,500 grant for a mobile dental unit that provides a dental access point for children in eight elementary schools and two middle schools in Duplin County.

• **Mecklenburg County- Give Kids a Smile** in Matthews received a $2,500 grant for a one day event that provides underserved children access to free dental care.

• **Mecklenburg County Pediatric Dentistry** in Charlotte received a $2,500 grant to provide dental services and emergency care to underserved children ages 1-15 that do not have dental insurance or Medicaid.

• **North Carolina Public Health Foundation** in Raleigh received a $3,500 grant for the Baby Teeth Are Important campaign which targets parents of young children to address the importance of caring for baby teeth.

• **Special Olympics North Carolina** in Morrisville received a $1,500 grant for a dental screening and oral health education clinic, in partnership with the UNC School of Dentistry, for children and youth with intellectual disabilities.
• **Stanly County Health Department** in Albemarle received a $2,500 grant for a pilot program in which the Stanly County dental clinic staff will provide preventative care to eligible children enrolled in the WIC Program.

• **Wake County Human Services, Dental Health** in Raleigh received a $4,000 grant to provide dental sealants for uninsured and underinsured children from low income households.

“The Delta Dental Foundation is pleased to present additional grants this year to so many deserving organizations through the Smiles for Kids program,” said Teri Battaglieri, director of the Delta Dental Foundation. “These organizations are truly dedicated to improving the oral health of children in communities across the state of North Carolina.”

**About Delta Dental Foundation**
The Delta Dental Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization established in 1980, which serves as the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina. The Foundation’s goals are to support education and research for the advancement of dental science, and to promote the oral health of the public through education and service activities, particularly for those with special needs. For more information, visit [www.deltadentalnc.com](http://www.deltadentalnc.com).

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