



MIDWEST DENTAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Midwest Dental Donates Dental Care to Children in Need

Mondovi, WI – February 2, 2009 – Forty-five Dentists and 179 staff at Midwest Dental will provide free dental care to underprivileged children on Friday, February 6, 2009 as part of the annual Give Kids a Smile Day sponsored by the American Dental Association (ADA).

Initiated in 2003, Give Kids a Smile is the centerpiece of February's National Children's Dental Health Month. The event began in part to help provide dental care for children whose families may not have direct access to regular dental care. Limited reimbursement provided by state and federal governments for oral health programs is a growing problem that contributes to the lack of access to dental care. According to the ADA, in Wisconsin, state and federal governments spend *less than one percent*, or \$38 million of a \$4.4 billion annual Medicaid budget, on oral health programs for children and adults.

“Efforts at educating parents, care givers, and children about proper diet and home care, fluoridated drinking water, and school-based sealant and fluoride varnish programs can prevent thousands of dollars in future dental and hospital expenses,” says Dr. Robert Darling, a Midwest Dental dentist in Sheboygan, WI. “However, in the long run, government dependence on the charity of a few dental professionals is not a sensible way to approach the dental care needs of these children.”

Midwest Dental is working with local public health agencies, area schools, Head Start programs, nonprofit agencies, and youth and community organizations to identify children in need. The dentists and staff will provide free exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments, fillings and other dental procedures.

Oral health plays an important role in overall health. Untreated dental disease is painful and affects a child's physical, emotional, and social development.

Last year, Midwest Dental clinics provided over \$100,000 in dental care and are expecting to donate even more this year.

Midwest Dental is a dental management company headquartered in Mondovi, WI with 63 clinics in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa.

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