

Dentists donate to smiles



Gary Moore / The Star

For the kids: David Wolf (left) and Marsha Hickey are among South suburban-area dentists who will provide free services to children from low-income families Friday. In the background, hygienist Missy Roberts tends to patient Sue Gustitus.

■ Some area professionals will offer free services on Give Kids a Smile day.

By Angela Mapes
Star correspondent

Grade-A smiles will be the goal Friday for dozens of local students and several volunteer dentists.

The dentists will offer free services to children from low-income families as part of the American Dental Association's third annual Give Kids a Smile Day.

Drs. Jay Bowling, Richard Gillum,

Marsha Hickey, B. Charles Kerkhove and David Wolf in the south suburban area are among more than 35 Indianapolis-area dentists who will offer various services, such as fillings, extractions and cleanings.

The children are referred by school nurses, Boys & Girls Clubs, Head Start and federal WIC (women, infants and children) programs.

Last year, Give Kids a Smile Day proved to be in such high demand at Center Grove schools that district health services coordinator Joyce Wassel arranged for transportation to the nearest participating dentist. Wassel estimates that nearly 20 Center Grove students re-

ceived care.

This year, more than 20 students have signed up for appointments, and Wassel expects that number to rise.

Bowling said he and Gillum, partners at Friendly Smile, 1259 N. Ind. 135, Suite E, Greenwood, will prioritize services based on children's most immediate needs.

Bowling said they will try to ensure that the dental care children receive on Give Kids a Smile Day becomes part of a regular dental-care plan. This can include keeping the students as patients at Friendly Smile or referring them to the Indiana University School of Dentistry in

See Smiles, Page S2

Smiles

■ It's a way to give back to community, dentist says.

From S1

Indianapolis or a Medicare of-

that dental services could be available to everyone."

Wolf, who practices with Hickey at 8920 Southpointe Drive, Suite A1, Indianapolis, said he has participated in Give Kids a Smile Day since the event's inception. He and his staff also have participated