

Dentists needed for 3rd Annual Give Kids a Smile day, February 4

The 2005 Give Kids a Smile program is spanning all corners of the state with the help of over 200 organizations, including schools, county health departments, Boys & Girls Clubs and WIC clinics, which are helping identify patients. The patients must be children 16 and under, have Medicaid or no access to dental insurance.

"The support from outside organizations has increased significantly this year. We are already receiving calls from parents whose children are in desperate need of dental care," said Laurie Campbell, IDA executive assistant, "Now we need more volunteer dentists to accommodate all the requests from families."

3rd Annual Give Kids a Smile
• Who: Indiana dentists and underprivileged children

• What: Donate free dental care to children, raise awareness of the need for easier access to dental care

• When: Fri., Feb. 4

• More Info.: IDA

Central Office
(800) 562-5646

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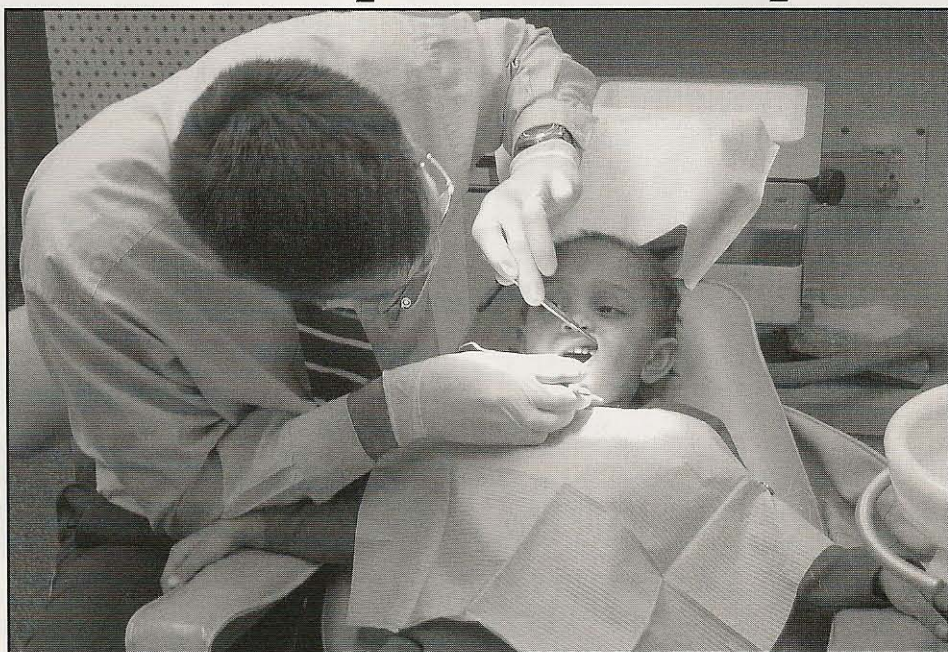
The 2005 event is looking for dentists to volunteer their time and ser-

Dr. Judith Chin of Indianapolis has volunteered for Give Kids a Smile the past two years because, "I see too many children in our community who have dental needs that are not being met. Over half of the population in the U.S. has

no dental coverage. There are children who cannot eat, sleep or attend school due to dental pain."

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Dr. David Wolf, of Indianapolis, checks a child's teeth during last year's Give Kids a Smile program. In 2004 over 240 dentists participated in the event. This year only 100 dentists have signed-up to volunteer.

vices. In 2004 over 240 dentists volunteered, while only 100 have signed-up for the 2005 program. The services provided by dentists do not go unnoticed by the community.

Joyce Wassel, R.N. for Center Grove schools was grateful for the services provided to her students last year, "On behalf of our students and staff, thanks to you and all in this program, for all you're doing to care for our kids. The criers came back smiling, and all of them came back proud to show off their clean teeth. The manner with which the students were treated couldn't have been kinder, more patient, nor pleasant for all concerned."

Dr. Chin has also seen the benefits of volunteering, "With this program, I personally have had kids come up and hug me after a difficult procedure.

They are so grateful because they know the 'tooth pain has been fixed.'"

Since this is the third year for the program, it's possible, "the initial 'hype' surrounding the first two years of Give Kids a Smile has worn off. At the IDA, we have learned what we have done correctly, but most importantly what we haven't. We are starting the identification of children, who genuinely are in need of this care, much earlier so we can fill every office and appointment available," said Dr. Perolat, Give Kids a Smile Chairperson.

All Indiana counties have children who would benefit from the donated dental care during Give Kids a Smile. Dentists and dental staff are encouraged to volunteer for this one-day event and should contact the IDA Central Office for more details. **ID**