



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

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Spirit Lake Pediatric Dental Day Will Provide Dental Care To Area Children

BISMARCK, N.D. – A Pediatric Dental Day event is being held Sept. 30, 2011, at Spirit Lake (Fort Totten) to provide free dental care to area children. A large group of pediatric dentists, general dentists, dental hygiene students, hygienists, assistants and office staff from across North Dakota and out-of-state will gather at the Four Winds High School gymnasium to help brighten the smiles of about 200 area children, according to Kimberlie Yineman, director of the North Dakota Department of Health's Oral Health Program.

Children will receive dental screenings, cleanings, sealants, fluoride varnish, restorative care, educational materials and prevention materials.

“There are many children in North Dakota who suffer every day with dental issues that cause them pain,” said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D., M.P.H.T.M. “The pain they have makes it difficult for them to focus in school, participate in activities, eat and even sleep. It's inspiring to see all the volunteers show up for an event like this, helping kids get relief from pain and educating them about how to care for their teeth so they avoid future dental problems.”

Other events like this that strive to address the unmet oral health needs of residents have been held in other states, with the help of America's Dentists Care Foundation Missions of Mercy, a national non-profit organization based in Kansas. North Dakota's event has the distinction of being the first one held in conjunction with an American Indian reservation area. Studies show that American Indian children have three times more dental disease than any other population.

“We've already begun preparing for the event by screening nearly 400 children,” said Yineman. “Those children were provided with oral health information and had fluoride varnish applied to their teeth. Based on their need, about 200 children will receive restorative dental care during the event.”

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Portable dental equipment is being provided by America's Dentists Care Foundation Missions of Mercy. Contributions have been received from many North Dakota dentists and dental organizations across the state to help defray the costs of the event. Dental supplies and technical support have been donated by Patterson Dental Supply of Fargo with the support of other dental supply companies. Many organizations have been involved with planning, sponsorship and volunteering for the event.

"This is a wonderful collaborative effort between public, private and tribal partners to come together for a purpose of good dental health by offering screenings, referrals and treatment," said Linda Rorman, State Head Start Collaboration Office program administrator for the North Dakota Department of Human Services.

"We are so thankful to Dr. Brent Holman, who is the North Dakota Head Start Dental Home Initiative Lead, for spearheading this Pediatric Dental Day event and to all the volunteers who are taking time to participate," said Yineman. "All the volunteers feel honored to be helping the children. This truly will have such a positive impact on the health of the Spirit Lake children."

For more information about the Spirit Lake Dental Day, contact Kimberlie Yineman, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4930 or 701.204.3438.

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