Give Kids a Smile!
SPONSORED BY THE
DELAWARE STATE DENTAL SOCIETY

An annual collaborative effort of the Delaware dental community to help eliminate oral health disparities

GKAS is the nation’s leading charitable oral health program

Delaware Dentists lead the Give Kids A Smile (GKAS) effort. Members of the Delaware State Dental Society (DSDS) volunteer their time, equipment, and materials to make the GKAS events possible.

Dentists, with the coordinated help of Hygienists, Dental Assistants, Office Staff and Dental Supply Representatives, have treated over 1,300 Delaware children since 2004, providing dental treatment to a vulnerable segment of our population.

The GKAS program is an example of the volunteerism and concern for others demonstrated by Delaware dentists.
Dental decay is the most common chronic childhood disease with more than 16 million children suffering from untreated tooth decay in the US. The mouth is the gateway to a person’s overall health, and an unhealthy mouth can be associated with obesity, diabetes and heart disease. Oral diseases cause children to miss 51 million school hours and their parents/caregivers to lose 25 million work hours annually.

Oral disease disproportionately affects children from low-income families – these children have twice the number of untreated decayed teeth as compared to others in the general population.

Dentists dedicate their professional lives to educating (and treating) members of their community – both parents and children – regarding the importance of oral health and the relatively simple methods they can employ to help prevent oral disease.

It is important for community leaders, parents, guardians and school nurses to understand that volunteerism is not a sustainable healthcare delivery model. And, although the GKAS program is an annual event, parents should establish a dental home at a local dental office.

The Delaware State Dental Society offers an online find-a-dentist resource at www.delawarestatedentalsociety.org.

2014 GKAS EVENTS

Friday, February 7, 2014
DELAWARE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DENTAL HEALTH CENTER
333 SHIPLEY STREET
WILMINGTON, DE

Saturday, February 8, 2014
LA RED HEALTH CENTER
2144 CARMEAN WAY
GEORGETOWN, DE
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY
DSDS – 302-368-7634

To register a child for screening and/or treatment, visit the DSDS website at: www.delawarestatedentalsociety.org.