

**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.



## 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

SPONSORED BY THE  
DELAWARE STATE DENTAL SOCIETY



**Delaware State  
DENTAL SOCIETY**

The first state's source **for your oral health**

200 CONTINENTAL DRIVE  
SUITE 111  
NEWARK, DELAWARE 19713

**302-368-7634**

.....  
[www.delawarestatedentalsociety.org](http://www.delawarestatedentalsociety.org)



# Give Kids a Smile

## A National Initiative

**Give Kids a Smile** (GKAS) is a national program which began in February (National Children's Dental Health Month) in 2002. The American Dental Association serves as the national umbrella sponsor for **GKAS** events held throughout the country and throughout the year. Education, Oral Health Screenings, and comprehensive preventive and restorative treatment programs are held in all 50 states.

In 2012, over 40,000 volunteers delivered care to over 400,000 underserved children in the **GKAS** program.

The overarching message of **GKAS** is that even the high level of charitable care delivered by dentists every year will never solve the problem of untreated dental disease among the nation's children.

So a major purpose of **GKAS** is to influence government and society at large to work with dentistry to craft common sense, market-based solutions to access disparities.

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](http://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](http://www.delawarestatedentalsociety.org)