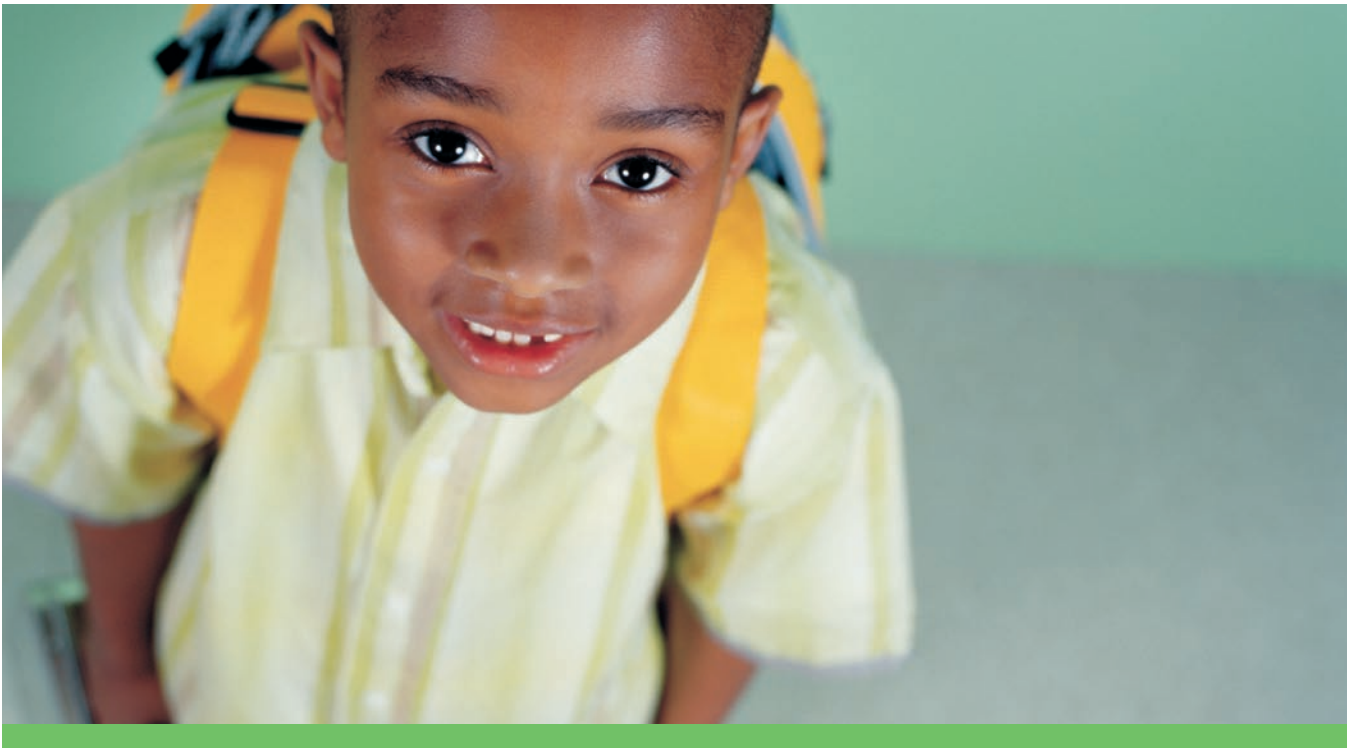


Community Benefit Programs

Furthering our mission.
Helping our state.



Leaving a lasting impression.

For over 40 years, Delta Dental of Illinois has been headquartered and conducting business solely in Illinois – so we’re particularly concerned about the people in our own backyard. We are a not-for-profit organization, and our mission includes improving the oral health of the communities we serve. We advance our mission through our foundation, which supports groups and programs that help provide oral health education and expand access to oral health care for the people of Illinois.

Many great reasons to smile.

Supporting Oral Health Education

We believe promoting oral health education helps further our mission. That's why we support and sponsor programs that educate the people of Illinois on the importance of good oral health. Because childhood is the time when good dental habits begin and healthy teeth develop, we have several programs that focus on children's education.

Land of Smiles Educational Program

In 2007, Delta Dental of Illinois launched a free educational and entertaining children's theater program called Land of Smiles. Since then, the program has reached hundreds of Illinois elementary schools and over 100,000 children to rave reviews. The program, geared to children in kindergarten through third grade, features the Tooth Wizard and his antagonist, PlaqueMan, engaging children in the audience with an interactive theatre skit incorporating oral health lessons. In this live-action "cartoon," professional actors portray characters — the Tooth Wizard who uses help from the audience to defeat his arch nemesis PlaqueMan. They provide a highly entertaining program that boosts enthusiasm among young children for taking care of their teeth and their overall oral health. Every child who attends our program leaves with an oral health "treat" bag containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss and an oral health "how to" sheet printed in English and Spanish to bring the lesson home.

Teeth on the Go Educators Kit

Teeth on the Go is a health program based on curriculum requirements that provides elementary school teachers and health professionals with a variety of learning tools to use during their study of oral health in the classroom. It is a "bookbag program" for the classroom that teaches students in kindergarten through second grade the importance of oral health and how to care for their teeth. The program incorporates a variety of visual and audio learning tools, showing students how they can have healthy teeth and gums. It also includes instruction on the importance of teeth to a child's overall health, the impact of nutrition on teeth and proper oral hygiene and toothbrushing techniques.

Grants to Organizations that Promote Oral Health Education

We have supported community public and private programs that provide essential oral health education to their communities, including the University of Illinois Medical Center at Mile Square in Chicago, Girls In The Game in Chicago, the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District - Dental Division, and the Illinois State Dental Society Foundation, whose mission includes providing dental health education.

Scholarship Grants

We offer scholarship grants to two dental students selected at each of the Illinois dental schools — the University of Illinois at Chicago and Southern Illinois University. The dental students, selected by the universities, meet criteria that indicates they exemplify professionalism in the management of providing patient care.

Educational material

We provide oral health brochures in English and Spanish to organizations throughout the state to help educate Illinoisans on the importance of good oral health and how to maintain their oral health.

Supporting Access to Care Donations to Illinois Dental Schools

We've made contributions to two dental schools in Illinois — University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) College of Dentistry's Department of Pediatric Dentistry and Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Dental Medicine. The UIC Pediatric Clinic is the largest provider of dental services to children on Medicaid in Illinois; it has been expanded to include services for underserved children with special needs. The clinic has also launched a health promotion and disease prevention program, enrolling cavity-free infants and their mothers in an effort to help the children remain free of oral disease. Our contribution will help the UIC Department of Pediatric Dentistry create a state-of-the-art pre-doctoral pediatric dentistry clinic. Our contribution to SIU will help ensure the Main Clinic is fully equipped to meet the needs of its patients. A prominent feature of the addition is a pediatric dentistry bay, which includes four operatories dedicated to pediatric dentistry. We've also committed a grant to SIU that will double the capacity of its Oral Surgery Clinic.

Dental Clinic Support and Grants to Help Expand Access to Care for Illinois Children, Elderly, Disabled and Underserved

We support agencies across Illinois that help expand oral health access to the people of Illinois, and we provide assistance to clinics delivering dental care to underserved populations throughout the state. Some of the organizations and clinics we have supported include The Children's Clinic, Erie Family Health Center, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, Community Health & Community Services Inc., Infant Welfare Society, and HealthReach Inc. We also offer support to Illinois County dental societies and health departments, as well as support the Illinois Donated Dental Services (DDS) program — started by the Illinois Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped and the Illinois State Dental Society to help elderly and disabled people in the state gain access to oral health care.

In 2010, we help fund the first ever Mission of Mercy event in Illinois. Originating in Virginia and spreading throughout the United States, more than 50 Mission of Mercy (MOM) dental programs have been conducted since 2000 to provide free dental care to more than 100,000 adults and children who otherwise would be unable to receive treatment. Over 1,950 children and adults received dental care free of charge. In total, Illinois MOM delivered nearly \$1,000,000 in basic dental care, including fillings, extractions and cleanings. During the event, Delta Dental of Illinois' own oral health superhero Tooth Wizard — and his arch nemesis PlaqueMan — performed the entertaining and educational "Land of Smiles" show. Each year, the show tours Illinois elementary schools to help teach children proper oral health habits.

Goods-in-Kind

We provide toothbrushes, oral health brochures and dental floss to organizations throughout Illinois.