



Community Benefit Programs

Furthering our mission.
Helping our state.



Leaving a lasting impression.

For 40 years, Delta Dental of Illinois has been headquartered and conducting business solely in Illinois – and as such we’re particularly concerned about the people in our own backyard. As a not-for-profit organization, our mission includes improving the oral health of the communities we serve. We advance our mission by supporting 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.

Some of our more significant community benefit accomplishments include:

“Teeth on the Go” Education Program

In 2007, Delta Dental of Illinois launched a free children’s theatre program called “Teeth on the Go” in an effort to further our mission of promoting oral health education. The program, which is geared toward students in kindergarten through third grade, visited more than 30,000 children in 85 schools in Illinois – reaching kids during the time of their lives when healthy teeth develop and good dental habits begin. At the conclusion of each “Teeth on the Go” performance, each child who attends receives a dental treat bag containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss and an oral health brochure. “Teeth on the Go” is visiting 100 Illinois schools in 2008.

“Teeth on the Go” Educator’s Kit

We also distribute a free “Teeth on the Go” curriculum kit to hundreds of schools in Illinois – which educators can use to help reinforce good oral health habits with their students. The kit includes a variety of visual and audio learning tools, including a 12-minute video, an audiocassette, oral health books and an oversized mouth model and toothbrush for demonstrating proper brushing techniques.

Grants to Expand Access to Care for Children

We donated a grant to the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago in support of pediatric dental services for low income Hispanic and Polish children. The Infant Welfare Society of Chicago is currently staffed with one full-time Board Certified pediatric dentist, two full-time general dentists, two part-time dentists and a part-time orthodontist. There are also four bilingual Spanish dental assistants and two hygienists. Another grant we’ve awarded will allow Girls in the Game to introduce a pilot oral health education program by creating an educational workshop for Chicago’s underserved and under-resourced neighborhoods. Additionally, Delta Dental of Illinois provides funding for the Mercer County Toothmobile, a mobile, fully-equipped dental clinic that allows dentists to provide school-based dental services to children in need of a dentist.

Grants to Increase Access to Care for Elderly & Disabled People

Our grant to the Illinois Donated Dental Services (DDS) Program – started by The Illinois Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped (IFDH) and the Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS) – helps elderly and disabled people in the state gain access to dental care. Another grant will support the Easter Seals of Metropolitan Chicago, which has a dental program that is one of only a few in the state that specializes in oral health services for patients with developmental disabilities. Along with this, we made a grant directly to the Illinois State Dental Society Foundation, whose mission includes providing dental health education and supporting projects to improve and promote dental health, dental care services and the dental profession.

Donations to Illinois Universities

In 2007, Delta Dental of Illinois contributed \$250,000 to the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry’s Department of Pediatric Dentistry to create a state-of-the art predoctoral pediatric dentistry clinic named the Delta Dental of Illinois Predoctoral Pediatric Dentistry Clinic. 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 significant commitment to Southern Illinois University (SIU) will ensure the newly dedicated SIU School of Dental Medicine’s Main Clinic is fully equipped to meet the needs of its patients. A prominent feature of the Advanced Care Wing addition is a pediatric dentistry bay, which includes four operatories dedicated to pediatric dentistry, named the Delta Dental of Illinois Advanced Care Wing. In addition, a grant to the University of Illinois Medical Center will assist their Dental Awareness Waiting Room information program – an effort designed to educate parents, children and caregivers on the benefits of proper dental care.

Scholarship Grants

We have made grants to assist University of Illinois at Chicago and Southern Illinois University dental students who exemplify professionalism in the management of providing patient care services and have committed to practice in Illinois.

Dental Clinic Support

We provide assistance to clinics delivering dental care to underserved populations throughout the state. These include the Erie Family Health Center in Chicago, Infant Welfare Society of Oak Park-River Forest, Adams County Community Dental Clinic in Quincy, Alivio Medical Center in Chicago, Central Illinois Dental Services and Education in Champaign, and the Free People’s Clinic in Chicago.

Good for employees. Good for our state.

Our community benefit efforts focus on expanding access to care for children, elderly and disabled in the state; providing assistance to clinics delivering dental care to underserved populations throughout the state; and funding the future of dentistry through dental school scholarship grants.

When organizations offer Delta Dental, they do more than help their employees – they help their communities.