As the 501(c)(3) charitable arm of Delta Dental of Illinois, the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation was formed in 2008 with the mission to improve oral health in Illinois with a focus on children. Located in Naperville, the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation accomplishes this mission by expanding oral health education and awareness, and increasing access to oral health care.

The need for oral health care and education in the state of Illinois is significant, and the Foundation is well positioned to continue to help address this need. The Foundation saw many successes in 2014.

- Our “Land of Smiles” program reached over 31,000 Illinois school children in 140 schools across the state in 2014. Through the program, children learned how to take care of their teeth and overall oral health, as well as the importance of preventive dental care.

- The “Dentist By 1” annual two-day training event took place September 12 and 13, 2014 in Mattoon in partnership with Lake Land College and the Douglas County Health Department. During this two-day training session, Lance Lambert, DDS, board certified pediatric dentist, instructed 13 dental teams on the importance of age one dental visits and the components of a pediatric oral health screening. During the second day of the training, participants were able to apply their newly gained training techniques among 50 children who took part in free preventative care exams offered by the Foundation. Referrals to local dental offices and clinics were made to establish dental homes and for any further treatment.

- We continue to partner with many organizations, including schools, community health centers and hospitals, that provide oral health education or care, and offer support to help organizations further their programs in Illinois that provide vital oral health care services to children throughout the state. In 2014, we donated nearly $200,000 to support oral health programs through our Wisdom Tooth Award and Community Grant Program.

- Last year, Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation grant award recipients provided dental services to nearly 6,000 Illinois children that might not otherwise have been able to access care. These organizations also reached nearly 10,000 Illinois children and families through their oral health education efforts.

We are proud of our accomplishments this past year and humbled by the support we continue to enjoy from our oral health partners in our great state. We are bolstered by our partners’ good works and energized to tackle new initiatives and enhance our programs as we look forward to the future.

Thank you for your support and tireless work in advocating for improved oral health in Illinois. The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation extends a heartfelt thank you to each and every one of our donors and supporters. Without your continued generosity, we could not bring impactful oral health resources to Illinois children setting the foundation for lifelong good oral health.
“Land of Smiles” Program

Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease. More than half of Illinois third graders have had at least one cavity. To help combat the prevalence of tooth decay among Illinois children, “Land of Smiles” travels throughout the state. During the interactive show, the Tooth Wizard and PlaqueMan explain good oral health care techniques, good and bad foods for the teeth, and why it is important to visit the dentist.

Each year, we evaluate a portion of students who attend the “Land of Smiles” program by asking questions before and after the presentation. Our 2013-14 results show significant changes in the students’ oral health-related knowledge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Select pre-kindergarten through third grade student evaluation results for the 2013-2014 Land of Smiles program</th>
<th>Percent correct (Pre-test)</th>
<th>Percent correct (Post-test)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grades PK-1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Flossing is good for my teeth.”</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Germs can hurt my teeth.”</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 2-3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Should kids use floss every day?”</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Should kids use mouth rinse?”</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“Is plaque good for teeth?”</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dentist By 1

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 22.7 percent of two to five year olds in the nation have had cavities. Children in Illinois don’t see their family dentist on average until they are 3½ years old. Visiting the dentist by the age of 1 ensures a child receives preventive care and helps set the foundation for a lifetime of healthy smiles. To educate dental professionals and families about the importance of age 1 dental visits, the Foundation launched the “Dentist By 1” program in 2012.

The Foundation’s “Dentist By 1” annual two-day training event took place September 12-13 in Mattoon in partnership with Lake Land College and the Douglas County Health Department. During this two-day training session, Dr. Lance Lambert, DDS, board certified pediatric dentist, instructed 13 dental teams on the importance of age one dental visits and the components of a pediatric oral health screening. During the second day of the training, participants were able to apply their newly gained training techniques to 50 children who took part in free preventative care exams offered by the Foundation. Referrals to local dental offices and clinics were made to establish dental homes and for any further treatment.

After completing the 2014 “Dentist By 1” training session and participating in the community service event, all of the participating dentists reported that they were more comfortable treating young patients. In addition, 30 percent of dentists surveyed increased the number of patients they treated at their practice who were under the age of 5.
Wisdom Tooth Award

2014 Wisdom Tooth Award Winner: St. Bernard Hospital Dental Center

The second annual $100,000 Wisdom Tooth Award was awarded to St. Bernard Hospital Dental Center. Located on the South Side of Chicago, St. Bernard’s Dental Center provides care to underserved Illinoisans. The Wisdom Tooth Award funded the purchase of essential dental supplies and hiring another dentist to focus on children with special needs.

Led by the Director of Clinic Services, Dr. Vipul Singhal, St. Bernard’s oral health program began in 2007 with the goal of addressing the need for oral health care services in the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago. Dr. Singhal’s long-term goal for St. Bernard’s oral health program is not only to address the need for oral health care in the community, but to also develop a continuing education program for dentists to treat patients with special needs. With the help of the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation and other funding, the St. Bernard Dental Center has served nearly 9,000 patients from all over the state since it opened.

Past Wisdom Tooth Award Winner Improving Oral Health in 2014

Promise Healthcare, located in Champaign, Ill., received the 2013 Wisdom Tooth Award to help fund its SmileHealthy Well Child Hygiene Project in 2014 and 2015. Through several dental initiatives, SmileHealthy works to improve the oral health of the community by providing preventive care, treatment and education. The Wisdom Tooth Award helped provide the funds needed to open the dental clinic for an additional day each week and to expand its mobile clinic services to three days per week. The award has also helped improve the connection and coordination of all Promise Healthcare services and sites to more effectively educate families about the importance of oral health at a young age.

In 2014, SmileHealthy’s clinical programs provided 10,294 treatments to 2,205 children. In addition, the SmileHealthy’s dental education project reached more than 8,400 contacts, teaching young families the importance of good oral health habits. SmileHealthy also worked with 485 families to encourage scheduling a visit to the dentist during their regular doctor appointment.
Student Grants Program

Four graduating dental students were each presented with $2,500 grants for their dedicated service and commitment to oral health in Illinois. Recipients included Maggie Schaefer and Britly Barton from the Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine and Milena Bulic and Nisha Mehta from the University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry.

Oral Health Kit Donations

The Foundation in partnership with Delta Dental of Illinois, distributed 250,000 oral health kits to Illinois residents and Delta Dental of Illinois members. The kits included toothbrushes, floss, toothpaste and oral health brochures to help kids and their parents maintain good oral health habits.
Twelve Illinois organizations were awarded nearly $100,000 through the Foundation’s Community Grants Program. These organizations help improve the oral health of Illinois children by focusing on children’s oral health education and/or providing access to oral health services.

Recipients of 2014 Community Grants include:

**Crusader Community Health, Rockford**
Crusader Community Health opened a school-based health center on the campus of Jefferson High School. The grant supported a program that focused on improving oral health among high school students.

**Douglas County Health Department, Tuscola**
The grant supported a partnership between the Douglas County Health Department Dental Clinic and the Wellness on Wheels van, which made visits to Amish and Mennonite schools in Douglas and Moultrie Counties. Children ages 5-15 received oral health education, exams, cleanings and referrals.

**Giant Steps, Lisle**
A dental appointment can be an extremely frightening experience for children and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Giant Steps used the grant to host a training workshop for dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants on making a dental visit a positive experience for people with ASD.

**Lake County Health Department and Community Health, Waukegan**
Lake County Health Department and Community Health used the grant to pilot an oral health outreach and education program at 10 preventive oral health outreach clinics that collectively served 2,000 children who participate in Head Start in Waukegan.

**Lake Land College, Mattoon**
Students at Lake Land College Dental Hygiene Clinic conduct oral exams, cleanings, X-rays and fluoride treatments under the supervision of instructors. The grant provided funding for a tool for teaching radiographic imaging.
Logan County Department of Public Health, Lincoln
The Logan County Department of Public Health utilized the grant to incorporate oral health education during Women, Infants and Children (WIC) appointments. Part of the education includes follow-up to make sure women and children are continuing their biannual dental exams.

Midwestern University, Downers Grove
Midwestern University collaborated with DuPage County to augment an existing county program where fourth-year dental students educate and treat underserved preschool and elementary children. The grant helped fund portable dental equipment, oral health instruction and supplies, without which the program could not operate.

Pike County Health Department, Pittsfield
Pike County Health Department used the grant to add a dentist delivery unit to an operatory, enabling the department to have four fully functional operatories and be better equipped to treat more than 1,500 children.

Promise Healthcare, Champaign
As part of Promise Healthcare’s SmileHealthy Well Child Hygiene Project, the grant supported a dental hygienist for the Frances Nelson Health Center Well-Child and Prenatal Clinics, who provides oral health education and introduces the patients to an on-site dental center. Nearly 500 children and 250 pregnant women are expected to be served through these clinics.

Riverbend Head Start & Family Services, Alton
Riverbend Head Start & Family Services used the grant to help provide oral health care through its Oral Health Education and Access project, which provides dental screenings, preventive care, cavity treatment and oral health education to more than 945 underserved children from birth to age 5 in Madison County.

Tazewell County Health Department, Tremont
Tazewell County Health Department operates a general dental clinic, providing preventive, restorative and emergency dental services to county residents. The health department used the grant to repair one of the operatories in its dental clinic that was nonoperational for more than three years, allowing the health department to treat more children in Tazewell County.

University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry, Chicago
The University of Illinois at Chicago College of Dentistry’s Postgraduate Pediatric Dentistry program provides comprehensive dental care for patients from birth to age 16. The grant, coupled with other funding, allowed the university to complete two general anesthesia suites. Approximately 1,350 more patients will be served on an annual basis based on the new suites.
Help Us Ensure More Illinois Children Get the Dental Care They Need

Please consider making a donation to the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation.

At Delta Dental of Illinois, we believe that establishing good oral health habits at an early age can set the stage for a lifetime of good oral health. We are advocates for preventive care, and through our education efforts, we are able to help eliminate the need for more serious oral health treatment among children.

When you make a donation to the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation, you help us reach more children and provide them with the education and oral health care they need. Your donation can bring a “Land of Smiles” show to an elementary school, help a child get treatment for tooth decay, provide special training for dentists through the “Dentist By 1” program and more. Donations are essential to us carrying out our mission to improve the oral health of Illinois residents. With your help, we are able to spread healthy smiles throughout the state.

95% of the donations received are directly used to fund oral health programs, and donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation would like to thank all of our supporters for all they do. Without their commitment, none of our successes would be possible.

- Community Memorial Foundation
- Delta Dental of Illinois
- MB Financial Bank
- Patterson Dental
- Procter & Gamble, Oral Health Division
- The Carle Foundation

For more information about the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation and to donate, visit deltadentalil.com/ddilfoundation.