



Feb. 1, 2010

Media Advisory

Palm Beach State College to help brighten local children's smiles

What: Palm Beach State College's Dental Health Services will provide free preventative dental services to 150 children from Palm Beach County Head Start as part of the annual "Give Kids a Smile" national children's dental access program.

Students in the College's Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene programs will provide oral health exams, dental health lessons, prophylaxis/cleanings and fluoride varnish to the children who will be bused to the College. Give Kids A Smile was established by the American Dental Association in 2002 to provide access to dental services to children from low-income families. Give Kids A Smile is celebrated each year on the first Friday in February. This year, according to the American Dental Association, such services will be provided at nearly 2,000 locations around the country for more than 323,000 children. This will be Palm Beach State College's fourth year participating in the program.

When: Feb. 5 from 8 a.m. to noon

Where: Palm Beach State College, Dental Health Services building, 4200 Congress Ave.

Why: Nearly 1 in 4 children, aged 2 to 11 years old, have untreated cavities in their baby teeth, according to the CDC. In Florida, only 20.4% of children enrolled in Medicaid received any dental service in 2005. Give Kids A Smile is held annually to:

- provide free dental services to local, qualifying children from low-income families
- raise awareness of the epidemic of untreated dental disease occurring here and across the country
- raise awareness of the need to build local public and private partnerships to increase access to oral health care to solve this crisis

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