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Delta Dental Foundation Awards \$3,500 Smiles for Kids Grant to Boys and Girls Clubs of Wake County

Raleigh, NC (May 2, 2018) –Boys and Girls Clubs of Wake County received a \$3,500 Smiles for Kids grant from the [Delta Dental Foundation](#) (DDF) to provide club members ages 6-18 with “Cavity Free Zone,” an innovative oral health education program. Boys and Girls Clubs also partners with dental students from the UNC School of Dentistry to provide free dental screenings to participants.

“We are so glad to be able to provide ‘Cavity Free Zone’ programming to the 350 children across our seven Boys & Girls Clubs, thanks to partners like the Delta Dental Foundation,” said Boys & Girls Clubs Vice President of Resource and Development, Daniel Pietrzak. “We look forward to reinforcing the importance of oral health in a way that will be memorable for the kids we serve.”

The “Cavity Free Zone” program consists of eight modules that focus on age-appropriate oral health topics. During sessions, children engage in hands-on learning activities and participate in games that educate about good oral health habits. Following these sessions, the participants receive take-home activities, dental supplies, and healthy snacks.

The Delta Dental Foundation focuses on ensuring that children and adults in North Carolina receive high-quality oral health education and dental care. The grant received by Boys and Girls Clubs of Wake County is one of 19 grants totaling \$65,800 that DDNC is donating to North Carolina oral health organizations and programs. This is the fourth year that Boys and Girls Clubs of Wake County has been awarded a Smiles for Kids grant. Grant recipients were selected based on criteria that included the number of at-risk children served, the uniqueness of the program, the level of community involvement in the program and the ability to measure results.

“The Delta Dental Foundation is committed to promoting good oral health habits and providing better access to quality dental care for those who are underserved in our state,” said Curt Ladig, president and CEO of Delta Dental of North Carolina. “Supporting the work of Boys & Girls Clubs can help ensure that more children are educated about the importance of good oral health and receive the care they need to grow up healthy and be successful in school and in life.”

About Delta Dental of North Carolina

Delta Dental of North Carolina is a nonprofit dental service corporation created in 1970 to provide dental benefits throughout the state. Its mission is to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. It does so by providing affordable access to oral health care with the largest network of providers, including two out of every three dentists, in North Carolina.

About the Delta Dental Foundation

The Delta Dental Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization established in 1980, which serves as the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina. The foundation's goals are to support education and research for the advancement of dental science, and to promote the oral health of the public through education and service activities, particularly for those with special needs. For more information, visit www.deltadentalnc.com.

About Boys and Girls Clubs of Wake County

For 50 years, Boys & Girls Clubs has enabled young people most in need to achieve great futures as productive, caring, responsible citizens. Since its Articles of Incorporation were signed in 1966, it has expanded to operate seven Clubs across the Wake County Community serving nearly 5,000 children and teens annually. Priority programs emphasize academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. In a Harris Survey of alumni, 57 percent said the Club saved their lives. Learn more about the positive impact Boys & Girls Clubs are having in our community by visiting www.wakebgc.org.

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