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Delta Dental Foundation Awards \$2,000 Smiles for Kids Grant to the Dental Foundation of North Carolina for Give Kids a Smile Kickoff Event

Chapel Hill, NC (April 13, 2019) – The Dental Foundation of North Carolina received a \$2,000 Smiles for Kids grant from the Delta Dental Foundation (DDF) to host the national kickoff event for the American Dental Association’s Give Kids a Smile (GKAS) program at the UNC School of Dentistry. The school has participated in the GKAS program for five years, but this is the first year it served as the kickoff site.

At the GKAS national kickoff event, approximately 350 underserved children aged three to five visited the dental school to receive oral health education and dental screenings. The children also learned age-appropriate tips and best practices for their overall health. The event was a multidisciplinary success due to the participation of nursing, pharmacy, medical, and public health students.

“The school’s Give Kids a Smile event is always one of the highlights of my year as dean, and this was no exception,” said Dean Scott S. De Rossi, DMD, MBA. “I am incredibly proud of our students and other volunteers who made it possible for our school to provide more than \$20,000 of no-cost oral health care to local children. Their commitment to passionate service of our people and our community make this event a success every year, and I want to thank them for all their efforts.”

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 the Dental Foundation of North Carolina is one of 19 grants totaling \$70,000 that DDNC is donating to North Carolina oral health organizations and programs. This is the fourth year that the Dental Foundation of North Carolina has received a Smiles for Kids Grant, totaling \$5,500. 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.

“Dental disease is the number one childhood disease, yet it’s preventable. Teaching children how to maintain good oral health early on is critical to prevention,” said Curt Ladig, president and CEO of Delta Dental of North Carolina. “By providing support to the Dental Foundation of North Carolina for this event, we can help to ensure that underserved children receive crucial oral health information and dental screenings that they may otherwise have gone without.”

About the Dental Foundation of North Carolina

The Dental Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. (DFNC) was chartered in November 1950, just two months after the UNC School of Dentistry opened its doors, to support and enrich the UNC School of Dentistry through private contributions. Today, DFNC awards more than \$2 million dollars annually in scholarships, fellowships, faculty professorships and awards, program support, and facility updates. For more information, contact the UNC Office of Advancement at (919) 537-3257.

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 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.

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