



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delta Dental of North Carolina  
4242 Six Forks Road  
Suite 970  
Raleigh, NC 27609

**Contact:**  
Elaine Loyack  
ELoyack@DeltaDentalNC.com  
(919) 424-1044

## **Delta Dental Foundation Awards \$5,000 Smiles for Kids Grant to FirstHealth of the Carolinas Dental Care for School-Based Preventive Care**

**Biscoe, NC (March 29, 2019)** – FirstHealth of the Carolinas Dental Care received a \$5,000 Smiles for Kids grant from the [Delta Dental Foundation](#) (DDF) to provide preventive dental services, such as sealants, to low-income children without a dental home. These services are provided at two school-based dental care centers that help to limit barriers to oral health care. Approximately 25%, or 1 in 4 of the students at these schools, do not have a dentist.

These preventive dental services help to reduce the risk of low-income middle-school students developing dental decay. It is anticipated that this Delta Dental Foundation grant will provide 440 premolar sealants to 110 middle-school students in need. Services provided at the school-based health centers also include, preventive health exams, immunizations, and mental health screenings.

“FirstHealth Dental Care is deeply grateful to the Delta Dental Foundation for such a generous grant to provide preventive premolar sealants for underserved children in rural Montgomery County,” said Dental Director Dr. Sharon Harrell. “Middle-school children are often a forgotten group as they transition from being dependent on their parents to oversee their oral health to being more independent. Providing preventive dental sealants will help protect them at a vulnerable time in their growth and development.”

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 FirstHealth of the Carolinas Dental Care is one of 19 grants totaling \$70,000 that DDF is donating to North Carolina oral health organizations and programs. This is the first year that FirstHealth of the Carolinas Dental Care 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 focuses on the importance of childhood oral health and the hazards children may face,” said Curt Ladig, president and CEO of Delta Dental of North Carolina. “We take pride in our foundation’s support of organizations such as FirstHealth of the Carolinas Dental Care, because we know we’re influencing children’s health and their quality of life for the better.”

**About FirstHealth of the Carolinas Dental Care**

FirstHealth Dental Care has provided dental services to more than 25,000 underserved children in Moore, Montgomery and Hoke counties since 1998. Their expert dentists and staff deliver care for children from birth to 21 years who receive Medicaid, Health Choice or are uninsured and qualify by income level. For more information, visit <https://www.firsthealth.org>.

**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](http://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.

###