



Children's Dental Health Participates in 15th Annual Give Kids a Smile Day

March 7, 2018 – PHILADELPHIA, PA. Children's Dental Health is partnering with Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY) to provide free pediatric dental screenings, cleanings, and fluoride treatments to more than 100 children in Philadelphia who lack access to a dental home. The initiative is part of this year's 15th annual *Give Kids a Smile Day* on Friday, March 30, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at 48 Snyder Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19148.

"This is a great opportunity to make an impact that will go beyond a one-day event and provide children with the dental services and education they need to maintain proper oral health. Tooth decay remains the number one disease that children face, and it's estimated that a staggering 65,000 children in the United States haven't seen a dentist in over a year," said Carlos Gomez, D.M.D., pediatric dentist with Children's Dental Health.

According to the American Pediatric Dentistry, by the age of three, up to 10% of American children have oral health issues, and by the age of five, approximately 60% of children in the United States will have cavities. Children who do not receive preventive care will often need costly emergency treatment that can become a financial burden to families.

Give Kids A Smile is the American Dental Association's signature program designed to improve the oral health care of the community. Last year, nearly two thirds children participating in *Give Kids a Smile* were uninsured, despite the fact that most children in Pennsylvania are eligible for CHIP or Medicaid, both of which Children's Dental Health accepts. PCCY uses Smile Day as an opportunity to help parents apply for public health insurance for their kids.

Children's Dental Health recognizes that good oral health starts with education. Parents are encouraged to establish a dental home for their child by their first birthday or upon eruption of their first tooth. Regular visits can help with monitoring of oral development and avoiding decay, putting kids on a path toward long-term oral health.

"We will continue to be an advocate for early dental care and community prevention efforts," stated Dr. Gomez. "We look forward to participating in Smile Day later this month as part of our mission to do so."

Children's Dental Health has been providing quality pediatric dental care to the community for more than 40 years. With more than 20 practices and pediatric dentists located throughout Pennsylvania, we allow for convenient access to dental care that is engaging, fun, and educational for patients. With our "show, tell, do" method, our growing patients actively learn routines to ensure a healthy smile for years to come. Our gentle approach to pediatric dental care reflects our core mission of education and prevention. To learn more visit ChildrensDentalHealth.com or call 1-(866) KIDS-DENTAL