

# Ready to Smile Newsletter



*Ready to Smile* delivers dental health services to children in grades 1, 2, 6 and 7 in Coos and Curry counties. Coordinated through the Coos County Public Health Department, *Ready to Smile* was launched in 2010 by The Oregon Community Foundation's South Coast Regional Action Initiative, with support from The Ford Family Foundation.

## Note of interest

*Ready to Smile* staff would like to acknowledge John Sweet for his valuable help when the Tooth Taxi, a mobile dental van, visited Coos Bay. John made phone calls to parents to ensure eligible students were served. He also helped organize the students to make sure every spot was filled and the day ran smoothly. John serves on the *Ready to Smile* steering committee.



*Middle school students huddle up to learn about tooth decay.*

## Community celebration to kick off National Children's Dental Health Month

This February marks the American Dental Association® Children's Dental Health Month. The *Ready to Smile* steering committee and staff would like to recognize the donors, volunteers, staff, school district personnel and community members who have helped to make this program a success on the South Coast. The free event



will include a short program, dinner, door prizes and a no-host bar. Individuals and organizations that have been involved in the program or those interested in learning more are invited to attend. Children are welcome!

**Saturday, February 4  
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

**Bandon's Harbortown Event Center  
325 2nd Street SE, Bandon**

*RSVP to Joy Ricks  
swvevents@oregoncf.org or 541.431.7099*

## Year two begins with record numbers

*Ready to Smile* began its second year of implementation last fall. The main goal was to increase student participation rates by 25 percent, as only 38 percent of the targeted student population was reached last year. *Ready to Smile* program manager Cecilee Shull said her team has already exceeded this goal. Several schools had 100 percent of their

students participate, including Blossom Gulch Elementary in Coos Bay, Hillcrest Elementary in North Bend and Myrtle Crest Elementary in Myrtle Point. The program has nearly tripled the number of students screened this year compared to all students screened last year. Wondering when *Ready to Smile* will visit your child's school? Check the schedule on page 3.

## Congratulations! We met the Mudd and Sprague Family Foundation's matching grant opportunity

Last February, The Mildred E. and Harvey S. Mudd Foundation announced a matching grant opportunity for the South Coast *Ready to Smile* program. The foundation offered \$40,000 for a 1:1 match provided by the community. Thanks to generous donations and in-kind support from the local community, the program was able to meet the full match! Both monetary and in-kind gifts were included.

A \$7,500 grant from the Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Oregon and Southwest Washington also counted toward the match. The Ronald McDonald House Charities National Chapter matched this amount, for a total of \$15,000. The funds will help support dental equipment, supplies and dental kits to be distributed to students.

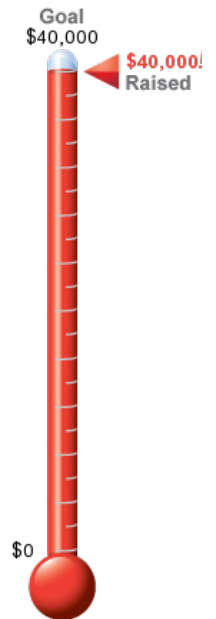


**RONALD MCDONALD  
HOUSE CHARITIES**

Volunteers, grants and in-kind donations helped meet the match. Examples include:

- Soroptimist International of the Coos Bay Area donated supplies for 1,294 dental kits.
- Evergreen Court Retirement volunteered a total of 24 combined hours to assemble dental kits.

- Curry Health Foundation, Gold Beach Rotary, Rotary Club of Brookings-Harbor and Rotary District 5110 provided funding to cover part of the cost for dental equipment.
- Soroptimist International of Gold Beach donated two-minute timers for dental kits.
- Matt Erickson, a volunteer and aspiring dental student, contributed more than 25 hours to *Ready to Smile*.
- Coos County Commission on Children and Families donated dental kits and a booth at the Coos County Fair.
- Advantage Dental donated educational materials to distribute at the Coos County Fair.
- Oral Health America donated 750 fluoride varnish applications and 750 sealant applications.



### NOTEWORTHY TIDBIT:

*Not only have the Curry Health Foundation, Gold Beach Rotary Club and Gold Beach Soroptimists been impressed by the results of their donations, but 19 of their members also volunteered at Riley Creek Elementary School during the nine days that Ready to Smile was there in September.*

## Program statistics for year two

Schools visited	5
Students screened	469
Students screened of total enrolled	72%
Sealants placed	1,470
Average number of sealants per student	3.5
Fluoride varnishes applied	113
Value of all services provided	\$92,147

*Statistics are for students in grades 1, 2, 6 and 7*

## Oregon receives a “C” for dental health care

The Pew Center on the States identifies and advances effective solutions to critical issues facing states. “The Cost of Delay,” a report published in February 2010, measures individual states and compares them to the nation in eight policy approaches related to dental health. Benchmarks include data ranging from school programs to state policies. Only one-third of the nation’s states ensure disadvantaged children receive proper dental health care, and Oregon is not among this group. Oregon received a “C” grade, as it met only half of the benchmarks at the time of the report. One of Oregon’s successes, however, is that it scored well above

the national average for the number of sealant programs in high-risk schools. Oregon also met the benchmark for tracking data on children’s dental health. Oregon missed the mark when it came to the number of Medicaid-enrolled children receiving dental care; fewer than 35 percent of students who needed this service received it. Oregon is also dramatically below the national average for fluoridated community water supplies. To review the entire Oregon report card or the full report, visit [http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/initiatives\\_detail.aspx?initiativeID=85899359680](http://www.pewcenteronthestates.org/initiatives_detail.aspx?initiativeID=85899359680).

## According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- Tooth decay affects more than one-quarter of U.S. children aged 2-5 and one-half of U.S. children aged 12-15.
- Almost 50 percent of tooth decay remains untreated in low-income children.
- More than 51 million school hours are lost each year due to dental-related illnesses.
- In communities with more than 20,000 residents, every \$1 invested in community water fluoridation yields about \$38 in savings each year from fewer cavities treated.



*Three students are ready to smile after brushing their teeth.*

## Upcoming school schedule

**January 23-24**  
Coquille Middle School

**January 26-27**  
Medical Teams International Van at  
Riley Creek Elementary, Gold Beach

**January 30-31**  
Powers Middle School

**February 6-8; 13-15**  
Sunset Middle School, Coos Bay

**February 20-22**  
Harbor Lights Middle School, Bandon

**March 5-7; 12-14**  
North Bend Middle School

**April 19-20; 23-27**  
Azalea Middle School, Brookings



*Dental hygienist Astrid Diepenbroek applies protective sealants as the student holds a hand for support.*

## Ready to Smile donors

Bandon-By-The-Sea Rotary Club  
 Harriet Carpenter and Anita Pace Charitable Fund of OCF  
 Susan C. Christensen Trust  
 Coos Bay Lions Club  
 Coos County Commission on Children and Families  
 Coquille Tribal Community Fund  
 Curry Health Foundation  
 The Ford Family Foundation  
 Freeman Marine  
 Gold Beach Rotary Club  
 Jerry's Rogue Jets  
 Shelley and Peter Johnson  
 The Mildred E. and Harvey S. Mudd Foundation  
 Myrtle Point Rotary Club

Georgia Nowlin  
 Dr. David Oelke, MD, PC  
 The Oregon Community Foundation  
 Port Orford Rotary Club  
 Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Oregon and Southwest Washington  
 Rotary Club of Brookings-Harbor  
 Rotary District 5110  
 Frances Smith  
 Soroptimist International of the Coos Bay Area  
 Soroptimist International of Gold Beach  
 Southwestern Oregon Dental Society  
 Sprague Family Fund at OCF  
 John and Teri Whitty  
 Wright Family Fund at OCF

## 2012 Ready to Smile steering committee members

Penny Allen, Chair	Christine Nichols
Myrna Barber	Heidi Pahls, DDS
Barbara Bassett	Kim Rollins
Karen Brown	Patricia Savage
Michelle Brown	Frances Smith
Kathy Cooley	Sharon Smith
Elizabeth Day	John Sweet
Thomas Holt, DDS	Dale Thomas
Kathryn Laird	Tenneal Wetherell

*Ongoing support is needed to provide critical dental services for children on the South Coast. Contributions for Ready to Smile may be sent to:*

South Coast Ready to Smile Fund  
 Attn: Melissa Durham  
 The Oregon Community Foundation  
 1221 SW Yamhill, Suite 100  
 Portland, OR 97205  
[mdurham@oregoncf.org](mailto:mdurham@oregoncf.org)  
 Phone: 503.227.6846

Ready to Smile is operated through Coos County Public Health  
 Contact Cecilee Shull: 541.756.2020 ext. 526  
[cshull@co.coos.or.us](mailto:cshull@co.coos.or.us)



*Here for Oregon. Here for Good.*



The Oregon Community Foundation's Regional Action Initiative (RAI) involves citizens in identifying and solving local problems. In regions across the state, OCF's volunteer leadership councils are working on solutions to local issues with a special funding allocation from the Foundation. For more information, contact Melissa Durham, Director of Strategic Projects, at 503.227.6846 or [mdurham@oregoncf.org](mailto:mdurham@oregoncf.org).