



Tooth Talk

The newsletter of the Miles of Smiles Inc. Portable Dental Program

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Fall 2013

Bridging the gap

Words of wisdom

Building Trusting Relationships



The dental team sees many wonderful patients at Miles of Smiles, all with their own stories. One patient in particular stands out to Dr. Parr:

Kassidee was extremely fearful of having dental work done, even telling the dentist that her mother had changed her mind and Kassidee was not supposed to see the dentist at school. A phone call to Kassidee's mother revealed the family was new to the area, and Kassidee was scared and nervous to see the dentist.

Kassidee had several seriously decayed, non-restorable teeth, as well as other smaller cavities. With each appointment, Kassidee became less fearful and was able to have all of her treatment completed with Miles of Smiles.

Afterwards, Kassidee's mother mentioned, "She said she was really scared

to go, but the dentist and team talked her through it and explained everything they were going to do to make it less scary." The mother also mentioned Kassidee is doing much better with her brushing now that she understands how important it is to take care of her teeth.

The Miles of Smiles team do their best to reach out to each patient to ensure they feel it is a safe environment and help them understand the dental team is there to help them. "It is a great feeling to build a relationship of trust with a child and see her anxiety lessen as we continue treatment," says Dr. Parr. "Kassidee ended up doing a great job and I'm so glad that we were able to move past her fear, to help her achieve a healthy mouth."

Dr. Parr shares another story of helping improve a child's habits to have a healthy mouth.

Many of Miles of Smiles' patients with the greatest needs are brought to the dental team by school social workers. Dr. Parr recently saw a little girl, Malisha, who is almost 10 years old and has never seen a dentist.

Classic a Success

Thank You to Argosy Casino Hotel & Spa! On August 19th, Argosy Casino hosted the 8th Annual Hearts & Hands Charity Golf Classic at Shoal Creek Golf Course. With 136 golfers participating, the event raised over \$41,000 to benefit Miles of Smiles. The money raised from the event will help pay for dental care for needy children in the Northland!



Support Still Needed

The Affordable Health Care Act has been implemented! However, **dental care for children is not part of the required covered services.**

Support Miles of Smiles, Inc. to continue to provide quality dental care to needy children in Clay and Platte Counties.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for the Miles of Smiles Annual Luncheon.

Date: April 4, 2013
Time: 11:30am to 1:00pm
Location: Argosy Casino Hotel & Spa



Building Trusting Relationships (continued)

Malisha missed two days of school due to a toothache. She came to the dental team in severe pain, with a swollen face, and rampant decay. Nine of her twelve teeth with cavities were so severely decayed they needed removal.

Although Malisha was referred for completion of her dental needs, Miles of Smiles was able to manage the widespread infection, remove some of the badly broken down teeth and re-store cavities.

Most importantly, the dental team had the opportunity to meet with Malisha's family to provide diet and oral hygiene education in order to help change her



Miles of Smiles Welcomes New Staff!

habits for the future.

In July, Miles of Smiles said fair well to Dr. Susan McDonald and wished her all the best as she moved back to Arkansas to be closer to family. In August, the team welcomed Dr. Brad Babcock to the dental staff.

Dr. Brad Babcock graduated from the University of Nebraska School of Dentistry in 1977. He practiced general dentistry for 31 years, including 15 years in his home town of Gillette, Wyoming, and 16 years as a partner in a large group dental practice in Independence, Missouri. Dr. Babcock just finished five years at the UMKC School of Dentistry as a clinical instructor, and is now excited to join the team at Miles of Smiles, having had a desire to work for a non-profit dental organization for several years.

Dr. Babcock and his wife Julie have three grown daughters, and two grandchildren. He is very involved in his local church, and does find time to fish whenever possible.



At the root

Upcoming School Schedule

During the summer, while school was out, Miles of Smiles was still providing dental care to over 560 children at the following locations:

- ◆ **Tiffany Ridge Elementary**—In June, saw 116 kids.
- ◆ **Salvation Army**—In July, saw 251 Kids.
- ◆ **Liberty School Administration Building**—In July, saw 73 kids.
- ◆ **Parvin Estates**—In August, saw 129 kids.

We want to thank all locations for hosting our summer dental care program and team, and allowing us to treat children who otherwise would go without dental care.



The leaves are changing colors, the weather is getting cooler, and school is in session, which means the Miles of Smiles dental team is providing dental care to children in need at area schools.



For the 2013-2014 School Year, our Miles of Smiles Dental teams will be at the following schools:

For a complete list, please visit www.milesofsmilesinc.org

Kearney School District	Sept 27-Oct 29
Chinn Elementary	Oct 3-Nov 1
West Platte Schools	Oct 30-Nov 8
Prairie Point Elementary	Nov 4-Nov 13
Union Chapel Elementary	Nov 11- Nov 26
Hawthorn Elementary	Nov 14-Nov 20
Renner Elementary	Nov 21-Dec 6
Crestview Elementary	Dec 2-Jan 10