

Tooth Talk

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

Volume 6, Issue 1

Winter 2014

Reflection

Looking back at 2013...



Miles of Smiles had a busy and exciting 2013! Our annual events, sponsorships and grant awards helped raise over \$800,000 for the organization and we continued to provide dental care for children all over the Northland!

- ⇒ **Annual Luncheon.** On April 5, 2013, the Miles of Smiles Annual Luncheon featured a panel of dental experts and raised over \$15,000 in contributions.
- ⇒ **Annual Hearts and Hands Golf Classic at Shoal Creek Golf Course.** With 136 golfers participating, the event raised over \$41,000 for Miles of Smiles.
- ⇒ **Day of Hope 2013.** The Miles of Smiles team provided free oral health care screenings and fluoride treatments to 101 kids and 323 adults in Platte County.
- ⇒ Miles of Smiles was proud to announce the organization had been awarded a **\$100,000 Safety Net Grant** from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City for 2013.

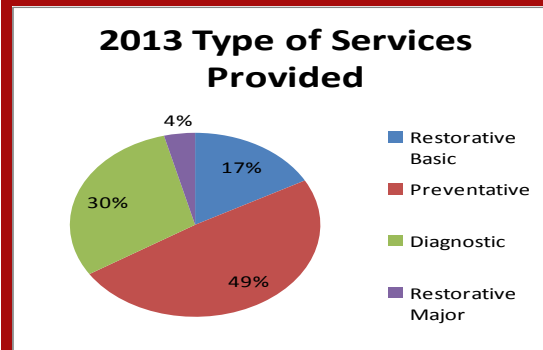
A Year in Statistics

In 2013, Miles of Smiles, Inc. saw **2,376 kids** for **6,673 chair visits**.

58% of our patients are on Missouri Medicaid
26% of our patients are “clinically needy,” meaning they have four or more teeth requiring restoration.

70% of our patients complete his/her treatment plan.

43% of our returning patients have reduced cavities.



Demographics

59% Caucasian
17% African American
24% Other

We saw 99 emergency visits in our office this year!

At the Root

Seeing patient improvement

This patient story was provided to by Melissa Rainsbarger, a dental assistant at Miles of Smiles. It shows the power that continued oral health care can have on the patients served by Miles of Smiles.

“We saw an 11 year old boy at Crestview this year. In his first

visit with Miles of Smiles, he had 11 cavities with three abscessed teeth and poor oral hygiene. He had previous dental work done elsewhere, yet still had a lot to be done.

Last year, when we saw him he (story continues on page 2...)

Improvement, cont.

(...story continued from page one) was down to only three cavities. His at home care has really improved, and this year, he came in for his check up and had NO



CAVITIES. He always came in with a smile and was excited to see us. It is so exciting for us to witness such as improvement his oral health. I love being a part of an organization where I can help impact the oral health of children and make a difference in giving them their smiles back!"

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Affordable Care Act affects Dental Benefits

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) went into effect on January 1, 2014 and for many raised questions about how it will affect dental coverage, especially for children.

According to the ADA website, the new law will technically require dental coverage for children, at least for preventative care. However, it will not be required to be purchased on the federal marketplaces, leaving a gap for some at least in the short term. The biggest change will be seen in Medicaid coverage, with the law potentially increasing annual pediatric preventative oral health visits by 2.9 million and providing benefits to an additional 8.7 million children. This would reduce the number of children without dental benefits by 55%.

However, the law does fall short. The ACA does not do enough to address low dental provider reimbursement levels seen at the state level and although dental coverage may be included in medical plans offered, it will often be contingent on meeting high medical deductibles, thus resulting in high out of pocket expenses. Thus, low cost and easily accessible preventative dental care, such as that provided by Miles of Smiles, Inc. will be essential in filling in these gaps in the ACA.



Upcoming Events

Save the Date!



“Brush Up on Spring Fashion”

Miles of Smiles Annual Luncheon 2014

Date: Friday, April 4, 2014

Time: 11:30 am to 1 pm

Location: Argosy Casino’s Grand Ballroom

Tired of winter snow and heavy coats?

Get your tickets today for “Brush Up on Spring Fashion: Miles of Smiles Annual Luncheon 2014.” While you are enjoying lunch, get a sneak peak at the latest spring fashions modeled by fellow Northlanders!

Tickets can be purchased on our website for \$40.

Thanks to our Event Sponsors!

Zimmer Realty Company

Commerce Bank

David and Jennifer Miles

Vic Rodman, DDS

Zona Rosa Foundation

School Schedule

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Gracemor Elementary | Jan 21 - Feb 13 |
| Line Creek Elementary | Jan 30 - Feb 21 |
| Topping Elementary | Feb 24 - March 14 |
| Winnwood Elementary | Feb 19 - March 7 |
| Congress Middle School/Park Hill Early Childhood Center | March 10 - March 31 |
| Smithville Schools | March 19 - March 28 |
| Chouteau Elementary | March 31 - April 8 |
| Platte Hill Schools | April 1 to April 25 |
| Excelsior Springs Schools | April 14 to last day of school |
| Southeast Elementary | April 28 to last day of school |