



Tooth Talk

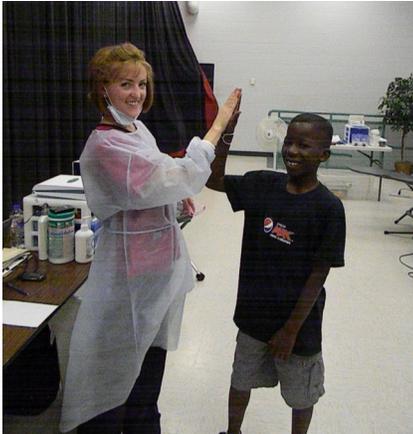
The newsletter of the Miles of Smiles Inc. Portable Dental Program

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Bridging the gap

Making Life Changing Experiences



Making life changing experiences is just one of the gratifications the Miles of Smiles team gets from their jobs. Dental Assistant Theresa Scheer shares how she was fortunate enough to make an impact on one of her patients:

We have been seeing a boy named Nhat, for a couple of years now, who is incredibly generous and caring, but has very high anxiety. When we first started treating him, the school had mentioned he does not do well with anything new. He was so upset and fearful during one of his procedures that they had to call his parents to come in and be with him.

The first day we saw him this year, he broke into tears, sobbing while waiting his turn. We were able to get through his exam, and discovered some cavities and a tooth that needed to be removed. We also wanted to place sealants on his permanent molars. In an effort to keep Nhat calm, we started with the easiest procedure first,

the sealants.

While doing the sealants, we explained everything we were doing and kept encouraging him that he was okay. After getting the sealants, Nhat told one of the teachers, with a smile "I'm going to go see them again." During Nhat's next visit he was a little less nervous and did great while we did fillings on his cavities.

Nhat had mentioned he had to throw away his toothbrush because it was dirty. Upon talking to him more and taking a look, we realized it was because he did not want to brush one of his teeth. It was very sore and he was worried we would take it out. We explained to him that it was no big deal, but we needed to remove the tooth because it was very sick and causing him pain.

We removed the tooth on the next visit, and once he was aware of what was happening and why, he was great! We successfully removed the tooth with no tears and no fears. When we were finished he sat up and told us, "Thank you." After the tooth removal, we educated him on how to brush and floss and why it was so important.

The last time we saw Nhat, his teeth were very clean and he was proud to show them off! Nhat now knows how to keep his mouth healthy and that it is not a scary thing to go to the dentist. We may have made a life changing experience out of this for him.

Words of wisdom

A Note from the Executive Director

The new school year is underway, and we would like to thank all of our participating schools who host our program. It is a big time and space commitment, but kids would not see a dentist if we were not set up at the schools.

During the summer, we held a couple of fundraising events. In June, we hosted our Decades of Smiles Luncheon to celebrate 10 years of serving the Northland. Since 2002, Miles of Smiles has served 15,000 kids for 30,000 chair visits. At the event we raised over \$16,000.



On August 20th, we were fortunate again to be the beneficiary of Argosy Casino's 7th Annual Hearts & Hands Charity Golf Classic. The event was held at The National Golf Club of Kansas City and raised over \$35,000.

In order to continue to serve children in the Northland, we need your help. There are several pieces of equipment that need to be replaced. Here is a list of the equipment we need: Digital x-ray sensors: \$15,000; New overhead lights: 2 for \$975 each; New utility cart for supply & appliance storage: \$250; Nomad hand held x-ray machine: \$2,000. ♦

Making Life Changing Experiences (continued)

Pam Lollar, Program Coordinator and Dental Assistant, shares another story of how Miles of Smiles is making a lasting impression on children:

Emily started seeing a Miles of Smiles dentist in 2006 when she was six years old. At that time, Emily and her two siblings were living with her 86 year old grandmother. We had not seen Emily or her siblings for several years, but recently she was a patient at our Synergy Youth Resiliency Center clinic.

The Synergy YRC is a facility designed to meet the mental, medical and dental needs of homeless and at-risk youth.

Miles of Smiles treats Synergy clients at the YRC every Thursday.

Emily is now 13 years old and living at the Synergy shelter where she is up for adoption. Her grandmother can no longer care for her and her siblings. Emily told the Miles of Smiles staff her fond memories of seeing the dentist at her elementary school and how the dentist gave her a hug after her treatment. Emily said she will tell her new mom and dad, she wants to continue to see the dentist at Miles of Smiles. ♦

Miles of Smiles school visits this fall!
(For a complete list, visit milesofsmilesinc.org)

Schools	Dates
English Landing/Lakeview	September 14 to October 9
Manor Hill Elementary	October 1 to October 12
Kearny Schools	October 10 to November 2
Chinn Elementary	October 15 to November 2
Prairie Point Elementary	November 5 to November 14
West Platte Schools	November 5 to November 14
Hawthorn Elementary	November 15 to November 20

At the root

Miles of Smiles Welcomes New Staff!



Left to Right: Ciara Carey, Melissa Rainsbarger, Dr. Rebecca Parr

In August, we welcomed three new employees to the Miles of Smiles staff, Dr. Rebecca Parr, Melissa Rainsbarger, and Ciara Carey!

Dr. Parr grew up in central Kansas and attended the UMKC School of Dentistry, graduating in May of 2012. She wanted to work at Miles of Smiles because she wants to make an impact in the lives of un-

derprivileged children. Parr says, “I heard about Miles of Smiles while I was in dental school and I knew that I wanted to work there. I love to teach children the importance of properly taking care of their teeth. It is important to me that I work for a dental practice that’s mission is to remove barriers to care for low income children. I think communities everywhere should have a program like Miles of Smiles.” Dr. Parr lives in Clay County with her husband, who is a Park Hill Cross Country coach, and their two daughters, ages 4 and 11 months.

Ciara Carey is a new dental assistant to Miles of Smiles. Ciara grew up in Kearney, MO and currently lives there with her husband and two year old son. Ciara studied dental assisting at Concorde Institute. When asked why she wanted to

work for Miles of Smiles, Ciara said she chose to work for the organization because, “I love helping the kids.”

Melissa Rainsbarger is also a new dental assistant. Melissa grew up in Dearborn, MO and also attended dental assisting school at the Concorde Institute. She currently lives in Platte City, loves to run, and cheer for MIZZOU. Melissa said, “I love working at Miles of Smiles because of the kids and of the variety in the schedule. We work at different schools every week, not in an office all day, every day.” ♦

