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## The Community Health Center Inc. Supports Give Kids A Smile Day

February 01, 2013 | Hope Brigham, The Community Health Center, Inc., New Britain

The American Dental Association (ADA) began the Give Kids a Smile (GKAS) program in 2002 as a way for ADA members to join with others in the community to provide dental services to underserved children. Ten years ago the Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC) became one of the participants of Give Kid's a Smile Day to help target the underserved populations among their regular patient demographic.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, early childhood cavities are the most common chronic disease in children and although noteworthy [improvements](#) have been made in the past decade, oral health significance is still being overlooked. One major way CHC has helped increase children's access to oral health services is through the mobile dental program which brings dental services directly to 171 Conn. Schools. CHC Mobile Dental services have been funded through different Connecticut Health Foundation grants which work to support the integration of oral health at every point where children and their families intersect with health care, human service and education systems.

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Once again this year, CHC will participate in the American Dental Association's eleventh annual Give Kids A Smile Day (GKASD) on Friday, Feb. 1st along with various other planned dates during the month. CHC's dental offices have scheduled multiple days throughout February where CHC and other private dentists across the state will offer [free](#) cleanings, exams, sealants, fillings, fluoride treatments and dental education to children with HUSKY insurance or no dental insurance. Some other GKAS event highlights include the proclamation of the national day of awareness from New Britain's Mayor, Tim O'Brien on Feb. 1, Dental themed Recess Rocks movement classes in Middletown on February 15th and on Feb. 2, Community Dentist, Dr. David Hergott, will be honored for his tenth year of GKASD participation.

"CHC's goal for Give Kids a Smile day is to provide access to the full scope of dental services and connect children and families to a regular dental provider to set them on their way to a healthy smile for a lifetime." According to CHC's Chief Dental Officer, Margaret Drozdowski Maule, DMD, MBA. "The establishment of regular dental care as early as the age of one is an important aspect of our comprehensive primary health care", stated Dr. Drozdowski Maule.

Give Kids a Smile day, featuring free cleanings, oral exams, sealants, fillings, fluoride treatments and dental [education](#) for underserved children. This event is open to the general public and not limited to current CHC patients.

The event is being held on Friday, Feb. 1, (Old Saybrook & Meriden) Saturday, Feb. 2, (Meriden) Friday, Feb. 15, (New Britain & Middletown) Tuesday, Feb. 19, (Stamford & Norwalk) Friday, Feb. 22 (New London).

The event will be at Community Health Center locations across the state; For more information or to schedule a dental appointment, contact Raquel Abbasi, program manager for CHC's mobile dental program, at (860) 754-6472 or [AbbasiR@chc1.com](mailto:AbbasiR@chc1.com).

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