

## **GKAS - Give Kids a Smile Day 2011**

KinderSmile Foundation held a very successful fourth annual GKAS Oral Health Fair for children on Friday February 4, 2011, at Central Presbyterian Church, 46 Park Street, in Montclair, NJ. A total of 349 children from 2 –12 years participated in GKAS and were provided with oral health / nutrition education, goody bags with toothpaste, toothbrush, and dental floss. Children were accompanied by parents or teachers.

Free dental examination, prophylaxis (teeth cleaning) and topical fluoride treatments were provided to 149 children, and their access to oral health care (Dental Home) was checked. The majority of children seen at this fair came from families with income under 200% of Federal Poverty Level.

We attribute the successful outcome for GKAS event to the group of dedicated volunteers: 6 Dentists, 2 Dental Hygienists, and 2 Dental Assistants, 20 students from Montclair High School, Montclair Kimberley Academy, Seton Hall Prep, and one freshman from Drew University. The event was made extra special with participation of Arleen Coyle from Dental Health Associates, Irvington, NJ, appearing as “Tooth Fairy” and “Captain Super Tooth”, courtesy of Delta Dental Foundation. Children had fun while learning about the importance of good oral health from the “Tooth Fairy “and “Captain Super Tooth” Arts and crafts for children were provided by Delta Dental Foundation.

Christie Prince, a New Jersey Family Care representative, was onsite to help eligible children and families enroll in NJ Family Care (State Medicaid/ Managed Care). Nicole Mosca from HealthPlex, a Managed Care Provider, shared information with parents regarding provider network and medical / dental benefits offered through HealthPlex as part of NJ Family Care. Live entertainment by a Clown from First Class Entertainment kept the children busy while waiting for their turn to get a dental checkup. Nauna's Bella Casa donated 16 pizza pies for the children.

Montclair Mayor Mr. Jerry Fried and Dr. Gene Napoliello from Delta Dental Foundation, and KSF Board Member Ms. Andrea Johnson each paid brief visits to show their support for GKAS event and KinderSmile. All volunteers, including teachers who accompanied children, the vendors, Captain Super Tooth and the Tooth Fairy, were given a T-Shirt from KinderSmile in appreciation of their services to GKAS.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the volunteers, vendors and Central Presbyterian Church in Montclair, for making GKAS a rewarding experience as we achieve our goal **“No Kid is Left Behind with Tooth Decay”**.

### **List of Volunteers**

Dr. Jennifer Akkaway, Dr. Sandra Gray, Dr. Ed Gold, Dr. Jayashree Ramakrishnan, Dr. Meenakshi Jetley, Harriet Kushins, RDH, Liz Liloia, RDH, and Arnold Liloia, Vanessa Duprey, DA, Juariah Ferguson, Tirsa Rothman. **Montclair High School Teachers** Dene Ryan and Dawn DeMayo brought 20 MHS students to help us.

KinderSmile Junior Board Members were busy learning all aspects of hosting a community-based event such as GKAS. Their experiences included helping with planning, assisting with on-site registration, working with volunteer dental team, interacting with children, entertaining them, and serving lunch to all the children. They did a great job of cleaning up the place after the event was over.

Pictures taken at this event are being edited and will be included with website updates.