January 28, 2015

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Local Dentists Volunteer to Give Smiles to Elementary Students

*Give Kids a Smile Day Helps Provide Dental Services for Over 300 D.C. Students*

Washington, D.C. – The District of Columbia Dental Society (DCDS), in conjunction with the American Dental Association (ADA), is partnering with Howard University College of Dentistry and the District of Columbia Public School System to host Give Kids a Smile Day on Friday, February 6. The event devotes a day to providing free dental services to elementary students in need of dental care. More than 300 children are expected to receive dental care at the February 6th event. This year’s participating schools include Abram Simon Elementary School and Kimball Elementary School.

“Give Kids a Smile is committed to making quality dental care accessible to all youth, regardless of their ability to pay. Give Kids a Smile Day is an important way which the members of the DC Dental Society and our partners realize our social responsibility to give back to the community that supports us,” said Dr. Johanna Huijssoon, DCDS Give Kids a Smile Day Chairman. “The volunteers have made it their priority to bring positive and lasting change to the oral health of the children in our community with the goal of creating healthier futures for Washington, DC’s underserved children.”

Contributing to this day of smiles, volunteer dentists and dental teams from the DC-metro area donate their time and services to provide dental screenings, treatments and education to the elementary students. The Howard University College of Dentistry also joined this community effort by donating treatment space to host the event and mobilizing its students to assist with the Give Kids a Smile Day in which more than 300 students and 100 volunteers will participate.

For the past 12 years, DCDS has hosted a Give Kids a Smile program in the community on the first Friday in February. “Since the start of the program in 2003, DCDS members have screened and treated approximately 2,500 children and provided over $700,000 of dental treatment to underserved children in the District of Columbia,” said Dr. Sally Cram, President of the DCDS Foundation and Give Kids a Smile Day spokesperson.

In DC, the Give Kids a Smile event will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6, 2015, at Howard University College of Dentistry at 600 W Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20001.

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