

**Ottawa County Health Department
“Miles of Smiles” Mobile Dental Unit
to Provide Free Dental Services for Children
at Glerum School in Holland**

On February 4, 2011, Dr. Tyler Wolf will be taking part in the eighth annual American Dental Association’s “Give Kids a Smile!” day. Dr. Wolfe will volunteer his day on Ottawa County Health Department’s “Miles of Smiles” Mobile Dental Unit to provide comprehensive dental care for Medicaid-insured and financially-qualifying uninsured children at Glerum School in Holland. In addition, every child at Glerum School will receive an Oral Health gift bag complete with toothbrush, toothpaste and oral health information for parents.

Although “Miles of Smiles” (MOS) operates year-round to provide free dental services, “Give Kids a Smile!” day provides MOS an opportunity to participate in a nationwide event. Dental professionals in dental offices, dental clinics and dental schools in all 50 states will open their doors on this day to provide free dental care to dentally-underserved children. The event also raises awareness about the number of children with unmet dental needs and the obstacles they face when seeking dental care.

In Ottawa County, there are: 15,531 children qualifying for the Free/Reduced Lunch Program; 4,987 uninsured children (less than 18 years of age); and 7,934 children (0 to 17 years of age) in poverty. In the 2009/2010 school year, 335 initial dental exams on “Miles of Smiles” (MOS) school children documented 566 teeth with decay (1.69 cavities per child). However, the great news is that since 1999, an average 43% reduction in tooth decay has been documented on MOS patients! A network of over 100 volunteer dentists and hygienists, grant allocations, and county support has facilitated over 26,000 client appointments on “Miles of Smiles”.

“Pain from untreated dental disease makes it difficult for children to eat, sleep and pay attention in school. Poor oral health also affects their self-esteem,” said Lois Havermans, RDH, CHES, Dental Team Supervisor for Ottawa County Health Department. “Our ‘Miles of Smiles’ initiative is the best example of a community collaborative effort that I could ever envision—dental society involvement, dentist and hygienist volunteerism, school administration dedication, community support, funders generosity, Ottawa County administration support, and Ottawa County Health Department’s commitment to helping improve the health of children in our community.

If your child is Medicaid-insured or without dental insurance and in need of dental care, please call (393-5694) to see if your child qualifies for “Miles of Smiles” dental services.



OTTAWA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
“MILES OF SMILES”
MOBILE DENTAL UNIT
INVITES YOU TO JOIN THEM
IN CELEBRATION OF
“GIVE KIDS A SMILE” DAY

(A national event designed to provide
free dental care to dentally-underserved children)

WHEN: Friday , February 4, 2011
9:30 AM—2:30 PM

WHO: Dr. Tyler Wolf will be joining the Ottawa County Health Department Dental Team to provide on-site, comprehensive dental services for Medicaid-insured and financially qualifying uninsured school children. Oral Health gift bags will also be distributed to all Glerum school children in observation of “National Children's Dental Health Month” and “Give Kids A Smile” Day.

WHERE: GLERUM Elementary School
342 W. Lakewood in Holland
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!!

