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Miles

of

Smiles



Fall 2011

Miles of Smiles, Ltd.

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YOU'VE HEARD OF US?

Because of our long history serving Illinois school children, we're sure you know the name.

Miles of Smiles, Ltd. is a dynamic company of dental professionals (dentists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants) who are independent contractors using state-of-the-art equipment.

The original concept of Illinois school-based dental care was conceived in the late 1970s by Dr. Robert Cross. Dr.



COURTESY GATEHOUSE NEWS

Cross still serves on the Miles of Smiles advisory board.

The company now known as Miles of Smiles, Ltd., was for years one of the only organizations willing to provide crucial preventive care services to low-income students in the state of Illinois.

Many of our dentists, hygienists and assistants have a long track record serving Illinois schools.

These independent contractors are encouraged to hone their skills beyond their dental expertise. They have gone "that extra mile" to ensure the growth and success of the company.

Other exciting changes have been the development and utilization of state-of-the-art mobile dental equipment, greatly improved dental materials (including sealant materials and curing lights) and enhanced dental health and awareness for the population that is served due to the use of fluorides, sealants, and preventive oral health care.

Miles of Smiles, Ltd., in cooperation with the Healthy Kids primary goal, "puts prevention into practice". They provide greatly needed preventive dental services to deserving children by a caring group of experienced dental professionals.

For a more information, visit
<http://www.miles of smiles ltd.com>



Miles of Smiles, Ltd.

is a team of dental professionals delivering preventive and educational services to children in schools, Head Start programs and other community agencies. We are committed to treating each child with compassion and respect.



Jefferson has been selected by the State Board of Education as a Spotlight School. The criteria:

- At least half the students enrolled are classified as low-income students in 2010
- Schools must have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the last two years as required by No Child Left Behind.
- At least 60 percent of students must have met or exceeded standards in both reading and mathematics in 2010.

SCHOOL spotlight

**Jefferson Elementary School,
Marion, Ill.**

Miles of Smiles has provided service to Jefferson and other Marion Unit 2 schools for well over a decade.

"Miles of Smiles provides a lifetime of smiles for the students they serve by giving them a positive dental experience," said Kim Brave, the school's principal.

To highlight your school in our newsletter, contact your casefinder or our main office using the information below.

THE WISDOM TOOTH

Dental advice from Miles of Smiles and the ADA

BAD BREATH (Halitosis)

Whether you call it bad breath or halitosis, it's an unpleasant condition that's cause for embarrassment.

If you don't brush and floss daily, particles of food remain in the mouth, collecting bacteria, which can cause bad breath. Food that collects between the teeth, on the tongue and around the gums can rot, leaving an unpleasant odor.

A dentist can help you determine the cause and best treatment for the problem. **Miles of Smiles** provides chairside education on the importance of brushing and flossing and can address this and other topics for students with specific concerns.



WE ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL COUNTIES IN ILLINOIS

The services that are provided to any child with a positive, fully-completed consent slip include a dental exam, prophylaxis (cleaning), fluoride treatment and dental sealants, which are placed on appropriate molars to prevent future decay.

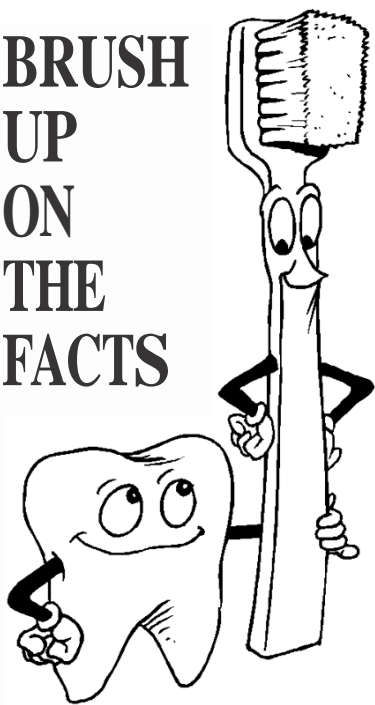
The processes by which we provide these services are:

- Permission slips are sent home with the children. Once the positive, fully completed slips are returned, our team, which includes a dentist, 1-2 hygienists, and 1-2 dental assistants, is scheduled to go to the school. Oral hygiene instruction is discussed, on an individual basis.

- Services performed are billed to Medicaid/All Kids, various granting agencies or private insurance. Miles of Smiles, Ltd. accepts what is reimbursed as final payment. The families and school will not be billed for any co-payments, deductibles or balances.

- Miles of Smiles, Ltd. makes an annual donation to each participating Health Department to help facilitate their oral health initiatives. All monies that transact between us for the dental sealant program is awarded back to the Health Department after the final billing cycle in June.

BRUSH UP ON THE FACTS



So what difference does a clean, healthy mouth make in a child's life? Consider this: Recent research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show about 20 percent of preschoolers—that's children ages 4 and 5—have tooth decay. And 50 percent have tooth decay by the third grade. By the time children reach the age of 17, 86 percent have tooth decay. More than 52 million school hours and more than 164 million work hours are missed each year due to dental problems.

The good news: By applying fluoride varnish to the children's teeth during our annual visit can prevent 48 to 60 percent of cavities.



Finding a 'dental home' for each Illinois child

It is important to Miles of Smiles, Ltd., that each child in Illinois finds a "dental home."

While mobile dental programs can guarantee that crucial care is annually offered to Illinois school children, it doesn't offer a year-round "dental home." For that reason, we network with dentists in your area who are willing to provide follow-up and urgent care to your students and can make referrals when needed.

Ideally, this is the way a school den-

tal program would work:

Any child who provides a signed, fully-completed permission slip becomes eligible for an exam, prophylaxis (cleaning), fluoride varnish and sealants, if needed. (Those children in grades K, 2 and 6 who provide a positive permission slip that is not fully completed will still receive an exam to stay compliant with the State of Illinois mandate.)

The Miles of Smiles dentist will then provide a report to the school

and parents documenting any follow-up care that is recommended. A network of local dentists who can provide that care will also be provided if the child is not a patient of an established dental office.

Through that referral, the child will establish a "dental home" which is available year-round. Regular visits to that dentist, along with the preventive services provided by Miles of Smiles, will ensure the child is receiving the care he/she needs.

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