Project Smile
Dental and Vision Care for School Children in Need
2010 - 2011 Annual Report

Project Smile is Proudly Sponsored by

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Making a difference in the dental and vision health of at-risk children in Poudre School District
Another year has gone by and Project Smile continues to grow and reach more children in need providing access and education for children's dental and vision needs in the Poudre School District.

Project Smile is a 501(c)3 entity which provides dental and vision screenings, dental education and pays and helps arrange for dental and vision care for at risk children in our community. Project Smile began in the Spring of 2007 as the result of a request from the staff at Irish Elementary School to help with their students' dental needs. Children were missing significant class time with toothaches. Redeemer Lutheran Church and the North Fort Collins Business Association responded and Project Smile was born. That Spring, children attending Irish were screened for the first time. Significant dental problems were identified and the children's dental needs and care were provided. Care encompassed everything from tooth cleaning and fluoride treatments to oral surgery, tooth extractions and crowns. In conjunction with the screening and care, Project Smile and the Irish staff implemented programs to improve dental health. Dental education and supplies were provided to enable children to brush and floss at home and at school.

Today, our full dental program is in place at Irish, Laurel and Putnam. We have begun to provide services to La Familia, a successful day and preschool operating on the north side of Fort Collins. In the Fall of 2011, we provided dental screenings to over 800 children and provided either screenings or dental education to over 1200 children. Cavity rates continue to fall. Less school is missed and the children are more ready to learn since they are not in pain.

A program to provide emergency dental care for students throughout the school district was implemented on a referral basis in 2007. In the 2010-2011 school year, children from many of the schools in the school district were served as we implemented an outreach program to the health techs, principals and school nurses across the school district.

Project Smile also assures ongoing care, when requested, to children who have “graduated” from Irish or Putnam. We provide services on a referral basis to children throughout the Poudre School District. We provide help with dental education or supplies for children at even more schools.

In the fall of 2010, we helped with the screening of Irish children for vision. The Fort Collins Lions Club and local optometrists led this effort. This fall, Project Vision was expanded to Laurel and Putnam. The Lions Club and Project Smile provide funds and help arrange care for children in need of glasses.

Our success is due to the efforts of our board, the Health District staff and dentists, our volunteer dentists, our volunteers, the Poudre School District Administration, the principals, health technicians, school nurses, staff and teachers at schools across the school district, the North Fort Collins Business Association, our business sponsors and our volunteers and donors. Our children have also contributed to their own success by brushing and flossing on a regular basis. Literally, thousands of people working together are responsible for our program's success. We thank you for everything you have done and will do in the future.

We look forward to your continued help as we continue to grow and expand our program. We will not stop until every child in need of dental or vision services and who attends or is eligible to attend a Poudre School District School is assured access to care.

Sincerely,
Blair Trautwein, Project Smile Chair
Project Smile Board of Directors

Blair Trautwein - Chair - Partner, Wick & Trautwein, LLC
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Cindy Carrington - Executive Committee, Volunteer Operations Coordinator

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Don Butler - North Fort Collins Business Association
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Pam Deal - Laurel Elementary Volunteer Coordinator, Heart of the Rockies Church
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Lilly Tellez-Garcia - Dental Practice Manager, Health District of Northern Larimer County
Darcie Votipka - Director of Student Services, Poudre School District

Give them something to smile about...

“Generally speaking, every child was well behaved, expressed gratitude, and took care of my office. Irish provided at least one adult to supervise at all times. The office was closed during this treatment. We enjoyed the experience greatly. We have a follow up day planned for these children and will do another Project Smile day on Sept 14 and Nov 2, 2010.”

- Dr. Greg Evans

“I am representing the dentists of Larimer County for Project Smile. I have been involved with Irish for a number of years before Project Smile was formed. I advise the board about dental concerns, help organize screenings and recruit volunteer dentists, hygienists and assistants.”

- Dr. Geoff Engelhardt
Dear friends of Project Smile,

This past year saw growth both in numbers of children served and organizationally as our dedicated volunteers and Board refine how we provide services to those Poudre School District students that need dental care.

The fall of 2010 started it all off with three screenings in seven weeks, serving over 700 students with a corps of over 80 professionals and volunteers. A new school, Laurel Elementary had its first screening.

Not only have local dentists and hygienists continued to generously provide care, but they are supporting our efforts with fund raising events. Dr. Brandon Owen and Dr. Greg Evans sponsored a Casino Night to benefit Project Smile.

The number of referrals for emergency care increased five fold in the past year due to cultivating awareness with school district nurses and health techs.

We are partnering with new organizations – LaFamilia Center for an additional screening in the next year and the PSD Early Childhood Program for referrals and coordination of care.

With this growth came an opportunity to evaluate our efficiencies and delivery of services. Project Smile operations have delineated jobs to a Care Coordinator, a School Coordinator, and a Vision Coordinator. This re-structuring will give Project Smile more manpower resources to keep refining the way we reach and care for students who need dental and vision care.

Additionally, the strong foundation built by the North Fort Collins Business Association (NFCBA) along with the operational support of the Health District of Northern Larimer County dental practice team, Poudre School District principals and staffs working closely with local dentists and community volunteers continue to make Project Smile a model for other communities.

It has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as the Volunteer Operations Coordinator for the past 4 years. I thank the generous donors, businesses and volunteers that continue to support Project Smile and look forward to working with you as a Board member. Your investment is truly making a difference in the health of our community.

Sincerely,

Cindy Carrington, Operations Coordinator