

# Ready to Smile Newsletter



*Ready to Smile* was launched in 2010 by The Oregon Community Foundation's South Coast Regional Action Initiative, with support from The Ford Family Foundation. Coordinated through the Coos County Public Health Department, *Ready to Smile* delivers dental health services to eligible children in grades 1, 2, 6 and 7 in Coos and Curry counties.

## Local dentist closes office for *Ready to Smile* treatment

When students who get dental screenings through *Ready to Smile* need urgent care, they often have limited access to a dentist. To address this problem, *Ready to Smile* Program Manager Cecilee Shull arranges for a mobile dental van to visit the school and enlists volunteer dentists to provide treatment on the van.

OCF South Coast Leadership Council member Dale Thomas recently talked about the program with his dentist, Dr. Tom Westfall of Gold Beach. Dr. Westfall and his staff were very impressed with Dale's report on *Ready to Smile*. As a past president of the



*Dr. Tom Westfall provides dental treatment at his office for a student from Riley Creek Elementary School.*

Rotary Club and a supporter of Curry Health Foundation, Dr. Westfall was also enthused by the involvement of both organizations.

Accordingly, Dr. Westfall and his staff volunteered for two days of serving Riley Creek Elementary School students on the Medical Teams International dental van. When MTI was forced to cancel the scheduled visit on short notice, Dr. Westfall insisted on providing treatment. He closed his office and dedicated it to serving the students. The Central Curry School District agreed to transport students to his office, and Cecilee and dental assistant Verena Caudle coordinated parental permissions and oversaw students in the dentist's waiting room.

In two days, Dr. Westfall's office saw 28 students and referred two of them to specialists. Some children had infections, and several others had roots remaining from their baby teeth. Multiple fillings were needed, and two teeth were extracted. There were a few tears, but most kids left with happy smiles. Dr. Westfall was so pleased with the results that he agreed to do it again next year. Although he has experience on U.S. military dental vans, he said he preferred closing his office and treating *Ready to Smile* students exclusively.

Dr. Westfall's experience is one more example of the power of volunteer- and community-driven programs like *Ready to Smile*.

## Ready to Smile celebrates volunteers and donors at event

The *Ready to Smile* community celebration on February 4, 2012, was an evening of fun for more than 80 community members. The event took place at Bandon's Harbortown Event Center, with dinner catered by McFarlin's Bar and Grill. Attendees included volunteers, donors, local business owners, dentists, educators and interested members of the public. After welcoming everyone, *Ready to Smile* steering committee member John Sweet explained how The Oregon Community Foundation's Regional Action Initiative originated the program, and how The Ford Family Foundation contributed to its launch. Cecilee Shull presented an overview of the program and its results to date. Dental hygienist Astrid Diepenbroek and dental assistant Verena Caudle demonstrated sealant application

on a student volunteer, using new portable equipment that was purchased with donations. In addition to honoring donors and volunteers, this event generated more than \$2,500 in cash and in-kind donations.



*Ready to Smile volunteers line up for a photo at the Community Celebration on February 4.*

## Support continues to grow as local foundation joins effort

In February 2011, The Mildred E. and Harvey S. Mudd Foundation announced a \$40,000 cash and in-kind matching grant opportunity for *Ready to Smile*. Local volunteers, donors and foundations generously met the match and secured \$80,000 for the program.

On February 4, 2012, an additional \$30,000 matching grant opportunity was announced at the *Ready to Smile* community celebration in Bandon. All cash and in-kind donations received through December 2012 will help *Ready to Smile* secure this grant.

The efforts are already off to a great start. The Bay Area Hospital Foundation recently granted *Ready to Smile* \$15,000, which pushes the program over the halfway mark. To help us secure this essential funding, please donate online at [www.oregoncf.org](http://www.oregoncf.org) or send a check to the South Coast *Ready to Smile* Fund at The Oregon Community Foundation.



## September 2011- May 2012 Statistics

Schools visited	11
Students screened	755
Percentage of students screened	46%
Value of services provided	\$135,945
Sealants applied	2,978
Average number of sealants applied per student	4.4
Varnish treatments applied	644

*Statistics are for students in grades 1, 2, 6 and 7*

## Note of interest

*Ready to Smile* staff would like to acknowledge Port Orford Superintendent Christine Nichols for her time on the *Ready to Smile* Steering Committee. Chris was a great resource regarding school policies and procedures, and she always made sure visits in her district ran smoothly. She currently serves on the OCF South Coast Leadership Council. Thank you, Chris!

## Community backs fluoridated water in Philomath

*Ready to Smile* is not the only local example of a citizen-driven effort having a significant impact on oral health. Two doctors in Philomath (Benton County) recently led a successful effort to bring fluoridated water back to their community.

In May 2011, the Philomath City Council voted to stop fluoridating the city's water supply. Along with a community group called Citizens for Healthy Teeth, Dr. David Cutsforth and Dr. David Grube launched a grassroots campaign to bring it back. It costs the city about \$4,000 a year to fluoridate the water, which is negligible

compared to the money saved by preventing early tooth decay. (According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every dollar spent annually on water fluoridation saves \$38 in dental treatment costs.)

The American Dental Association describes community water fluoridation as the adjustment of the naturally occurring fluoride in drinking water to the optimal level for protecting oral health. Research shows that this is the most effective way to prevent dental decay.

### 2012 *Ready to Smile* steering committee members

Penny Allen, Chair	Heidi Pahls, DDS
Myrna Barber	Kim Rollins
Barbara Bassett	Patricia Savage
Karen Brown	Frances Smith
Michelle Brown	Sharon Smith
Kathy Cooley	John Sweet
Elizabeth Day	Dale Thomas
Thomas Holt, DDS	Tenneal Wetherell
Kathryn Laird	



*John Sweet enjoys the event with Dr. Dane Smith.*

### *Ready to Smile* donors

Advantage Dental  
Peggy Alessio  
Bain Insurance Agency  
Bandon-by-the-Sea Rotary  
Bay Area Hospital Foundation  
Bee Happy Children's Dentistry  
Karen Brown  
Harriet Carpenter and Anita Pace Charitable Fund of OCF  
Susan C. Christensen Trust  
Coos Bay Lions Club  
Coos County Commission on Children and Families  
Coquille Rotary Club  
Coquille Tribal Community Fund  
Curry Health Foundation  
Lisa DeSalvio  
David and Barbara Faulkner  
The Ford Family Foundation  
Freeman Marine  
Gold Beach Family Dental  
Gold Beach Rotary Club  
Scott and Dawn Granger  
Jerry's Rogue Jets

Shelley and Peter Johnson  
McFarlin's Bar & Grill  
The Mildred E. and Harvey S. Mudd Foundation  
Myrtle Point Rotary Club  
Georgia Nowlin  
Dr. David Oelke, MD, PC  
The Oregon Community Foundation  
Port Orford Rotary Club  
Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Oregon and Southwest Washington  
Rotary Club of Brookings-Harbor  
Rotary District 5110  
Patricia Savage  
Frances Smith  
Soroptimist International of The Coos Bay Area  
Soroptimist International of Gold Beach  
Southwestern Oregon Dental Society  
Sprague Family Fund at OCF  
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Gold Beach  
Three Rivers Foundation  
John and Teri Whitty  
Wild Rivers Community Fund  
Wright Family Fund

*Ongoing support is needed to provide critical dental services for children on the South Coast. Contributions for Ready to Smile may be sent to:*

South Coast *Ready to Smile* Fund  
Attn: Melissa Durham  
The Oregon Community Foundation  
1221 SW Yamhill, Suite 100  
Portland, OR 97205  
[mdurham@oregoncf.org](mailto:mdurham@oregoncf.org)  
Phone: 503.227.6846



*Ready to Smile* is operated through  
Coos County Public Health  
Contact Cecilee Shull: 541.756.2020 ext. 526  
[cshull@co.coos.or.us](mailto:cshull@co.coos.or.us)



*Here for Oregon. Here for Good.*



*The Oregon Community Foundation's Regional Action Initiative (RAI) involves citizens in identifying and solving local problems. In regions across the state, OCF's volunteer leadership councils are working on solutions to local issues with a special funding allocation from the Foundation. For more information, contact Melissa Durham, Director of Strategic Projects, at 503.227.6846 or [mdurham@oregoncf.org](mailto:mdurham@oregoncf.org).*