



Delta Dental of Minnesota

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:
Heather Hofmeister
(651) 994-5210
hhofmeister@deltadentalmn.org

Delta Dental of Minnesota Announces 2008 Serve a SmileSM Winners

April 16, 2008 (EAGAN, Minn.) -- Delta Dental of Minnesota, in partnership with the Minnesota Alliance with Youth and Minnesota FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America), announces that the company has awarded more than \$23,000 in youth service mini grants and in-kind donations¹. The competitive-based grants are awarded through Delta Dental's *Serve a Smile*SM program, which promotes youth volunteer activities coinciding with Global Youth Service Day on April 25-27:

- The grant awarded to West Central Area FCCLA will be used for a project called Sip All Day, Get Decay.
- The grant awarded to Clinton Graceville Beardsley FCCLA will be used for a project called Sweet Treat for a Super Smile.
- The grant awarded to Minnesota Youth Advisory Council will be used for a project called Youth Empowering Youth.
- The grant awarded to Grand Meadow FCCLA will be used for a project called Save Your Smile.
- The grant awarded to Something Cool, Inc./McGregor Kids Plus will be used for a project called Operation Bright Smile.
- The grant awarded to Metropolitan Federation of Alternative Schools will be used for a project called Urban League Academy Health Fair.
- The grant awarded to Richfield School District will be used for a project called Say Cheese! Keeping Youth Mouth Healthy.
- The grant awarded to Spring Lake Park FCCLA will be used for a project called The Whole Tooth and Nothing but the Tooth.
- The grant awarded to 4H University of MN Extension will be used for a project called Growing Healthy - Vegetable Garden.
- The grant awarded to Amherst H. Wilder Foundation will be used for a project called Reach One Teach One: Health Hygiene and Happiness.
- The grant awarded to St. Paul Public Housing Youth Connections will be used for a project called Walkabout: Is Our Community Healthy?

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¹ *In-kind donations include items such as children's toothbrushes, adult toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss and oral health educational materials geared toward specific populations.*

- The grant awarded to St. Paul Public Housing will be used for a project called Strengthening and Celebrating a Healthy Community.
- The grant awarded to Nobles County Integration Collaborative will be used for a project called Dynamic 507 Serves A Smile.
- The grant awarded to Augsburg Fairview Academy for Health Careers will be used for a project called University of Minnesota & Augsburg Fairview Academy Oral Health and Nutrition Initiative.
- The grant awarded to Cambridge-Isanti High School FCCLA will be used for a project called Are You Ready For Work?
- The grant awarded to Fulda FCCLA will be used for a project called Making a Difference – Starting at Home.
- The grant awarded to Kelliher FCCLA will be used for a project called Don't Let Your Smile Go Up In Smoke.
- The grant awarded to Ginew Golden Eagles will be used for a project called Traditions and Health Ways: Sundance Wellness Campaign.
- The grant awarded to Zoom House will be used for a project called Smiles For Zoom.
- The grant awarded to the Americorp Promise Fellow will be used for a project called Project Eat Right for Overall Health.
- The grant awarded to John A. Johnson Elementary School will be used for a project called John A. Johnson School Rain Garden.
- The grant awarded to RTR Junior and Senior FCCLA will be used for a project called Five A Day Through Theater and Role Play.

“We were excited when we noticed the 2008 Serve a Smile projects are increasing their incorporation of oral health education and awareness,” said Ann Johnson, director of Community Affairs at Delta Dental of Minnesota. “This supports our mission of making a healthy difference, increasing health literacy and improving health.”

“We live in a world in which we are increasingly interdependent. The Serve a Smile mini grants get young people involved in building their communities and working across income, racial, religious and cultural lines on issues that impact all of us in society, including health care,” said Johnson.

“We’re pleased to partner with Minnesota Alliance with Youth and FCCLA for the fifth year,” continued Johnson. “It’s imperative that adults continue to search for ways to motivate young people. The good news is that youth do good things every day, yet these youth are so grateful for the opportunity to demonstrate positive leadership skills. It’s inspiring to watch them take charge.”

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About Delta Dental of Minnesota

An innovator in oral health benefit plans, Delta Dental of Minnesota is an independently operated, nonprofit dental services company that administers self-insured and prepaid dental service plans. Delta Dental of Minnesota serves more than 8,300 employer groups with more than 3.2 million members in Minnesota and across the nation. For more than 35 years, Delta Dental of Minnesota's mission has been to help ensure all Minnesotans have access to a range of quality, affordable dental benefit plans.

Delta Dental of Minnesota is headquartered in Eagan, and has a customer service center on Minnesota's Iron Range. For more information about Delta Dental of Minnesota, visit www.deltadentalmn.org.

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