



## **DELTA DENTAL OF MINNESOTA FOUNDATION GRANTEE**

### **SPOTLIGHT: Open Door Health Center**

Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation is a proud sponsor of Open Door Health Center. Open Door Health Center is a non-profit, federally qualified health center (FQHC) established in 1994 in Mankato, MN. Open Door Health Center's mission continues to be "to advance access to quality, affordable, culturally appropriate health care through patient-centered medical, dental and behavioral health services for all people across southern Minnesota."

Since 2005, Delta Dental of Minnesota has provided over \$120,000 in support of Open Door's school-based oral health outreach in the region. More recently the Delta Dental of Minnesota Foundation helped Open Door expand this effort with a \$76,000 grant to participate in a statewide Smiles@School Sealant Initiative.

Open Door Health Center is now applying sealants to elementary-aged children at-risk of tooth decay. Sarah Kruse, CEO of Open Door Health Center, thinks very highly of the Smiles@School Sealant Program stating, "A significant number of children feel comfortable having the oral screenings in their school and it's very convenient for their parents and caregivers." Not only does the program provide care needed, there is also an educational aspect, "We also teach the children about the importance of oral health care and give children the essential tools to help maintain good oral health" (Kruse).