

Smiles on Wheels & SEAL! Michigan Success

Smiles on Wheels is a non-profit organization composed of Registered Dental Hygienists operating under Public Act 161 and who are focused on providing preventative oral health care services in non-traditional environments. Smiles on Wheels first became funded via the Michigan Department of Community Health SEAL! Michigan Dental Sealant program in 2007 and they are now servicing 39 schools within Michigan.

The Seal! Michigan dental sealant program funds non-profit programs to provide free dental sealants to children within the convenience of their own schools. School-based dental sealant programs are highly recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to decrease the amount of dental disease on first and second molars. “Sealants prevent tooth decay and also stop cavities from growing. The Surgeon General’s report on oral health indicates that sealants can reduce decay in school children by more than 70 percent”¹.

Over the last few years Smiles on Wheels has grown their school-based dental sealant program within Jackson County and is now providing school-based services within the counties of Hillsdale, Branch, Lenawee, and Ingham schools as well. The program provides free dental sealant placement to first, second, sixth and seventh graders in participating schools. Smiles on Wheels also has space in the Jackson County Health Department where they can provide sealants to children who were absent or otherwise unable to obtain dental sealants on the day of service within their school.

In the 2009-2010 fiscal year, Smiles on Wheels provided 3,981 dental sealants to 508 children in 30 different schools. In addition to the preventative dental sealant placement, they also provided 538 fluoride varnish treatments, and provided 612 children with oral health education. Smiles on Wheels perseverance over the years to begin, grow and perfect their dental sealant program has provided prevention and access to oral health care to thousands of Michigan’s children.

For more information on the SEAL! Michigan dental sealant program contact:

Jill Moore RDH, BSDH, MHA-E
Dental Sealant Coordinator
Michigan Department of Community Health
517-373-4943
MooreJ14@Michigan.gov

To contact Smiles on Wheels directly, visit: <http://smilesonwheels.org/>



Smiles on Wheels from left: Stephanie Moor RDH, Kim Crabtree RDH (President), Shana Kuhn (sealant coordinator), Betsy Southern RDH (Vice President)

¹Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2010). School-based dental sealant programs. Retrieved: http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/topics/dental_sealant_programs.htm.