



**McHenry County  
Department of Health**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Dental Clinic participates in "Give Kids a Smile" Day**

**Woodstock IL** – In recognition of the American Dental Association's "Give Kids a Smile Day", the McHenry County Cooperative Clinic provided 150 screenings and treatment (valued at over \$25,000) to 67 children with the help of over 40 volunteers, including 24 dentists and dental hygienists, at the annual event on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Eligible residents included children between the ages of 5 and 18 from low-income families, uninsured or underinsured or who qualified for subsidized school lunch programs.

Located on historic Woodstock Square at 237 Main Street, the Clinic's Director, Dr. Diane Metrick, has partnered every year with area dentists from the McHenry County Dental Society in providing screenings and treatments to children in need of dental care.

"Give Kids a Smile" is a national initiative to focus attention on the epidemic of untreated oral disease among disadvantaged children. The need for oral health care is the most prevalent unmet health care need among children and adolescents. According to the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF), tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease affecting 53% of 6-8 year olds and 84% of 17 year olds.

Over the past 6 years, ILCHF has provided necessary funding to help expand access to services in over 35 communities in Illinois (including Woodstock). The McHenry County Cooperative Dental Clinic wishes to thank ILCHF for its generosity and support of oral health initiatives in McHenry County. To learn about the Cooperative Dental Clinic, visit [www.mcdh.info](http://www.mcdh.info).

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***"Working to prevent disease and promote health and safety for all people of McHenry County since 1966."***