



## Press Release

For immediate release

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### **Bethany recognizes Give Kids A Smile® Day in a new way**

**Moline, Illinois** – The American Dental Association recognizes the first Friday in February as Give Kids a Smile Day (GKAS) when dentists across the country provide free oral health care services to children from low-income families. This year, Bethany for Children & Families and the Quad Cities' GKAS dental advisory board have expanded the local Give Kids a Smile Day to more than just a day.

Previously, the GKAS Program served nearly 400-500 youth in the Quad Cities each year. Since the launch of Bethany's mobile dental clinic last fall, the Give Kids a Smile Program has provided dental screenings, exams, and sealants to 1,848 Quad City area children in just over six months. Nearly half of those children are in need of follow-up work and will be seen by one of the 94 volunteer general dentists and specialists. This is just one small step in eliminating the silent epidemic of dental disease for thousands of children who do not have access to oral health care.

On **Friday, February 3**, Bethany's mobile dental clinic will provide screenings to students at **Wood Intermediate**, 5701 North Division Street, Davenport, Iowa, from **9:30 a.m. to noon**.

Bethany for Children & Families has partnered with the local health departments and area schools to identify children eligible for the GKAS program. The mobile dental clinic was manufactured by Farber Specialty Vehicles. Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust, Illinois State Dental Society, ADA Foundation, Patterson Dental, Lamar Advertising, US Adventure RV, and private donors have been instrumental in providing support to this program.

Bethany for Children & Families is a community service organization that has provided voluntary, not-for-profit services to children and families in western Illinois and eastern Iowa since 1899.

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