



Give Kids A Smile! FAQs

Q: What is the goal of the Give Kids A Smile! event?

A: To ensure access to quality dental care for every child in America, regardless of their social or financial situation. Also, to educate children on the lifelong benefits of proper oral hygiene and healthcare.

Q: How long has the GKAS event been in existence?

A: 2003 was the first year the event was implemented on a national basis. This will mark the second year. It is based on a program developed in St. Louis, MO.

Q: Is GKAS an annual event?

A: Yes. The event takes place during the first week in February each year as part of the Children's Dental Health Month national initiative through the American Dental Association (ADA).

Q: Are all children eligible to participate?

A: The GKAS event seeks to help all needy children ages 12 and under.

Q: How are parents alerted about the program?

A: Information kits are sent to schools, religious organizations, Head Start programs, the Boys and Girls Clubs and YMCAs and YWCAs around NJ. These kits will include the public site list and parental consent forms.

Q: Where can parents get information other than any of the above organizations?

A: There is a GKAS Hotline (888-576-9278) a NJ website, www.njda.org/gkas and the ADA's website www.ada.org, all of which have all the information that parents will need. Emails and phone messages will be promptly answered.

Q: What dental services are available through GKAS?

A: Services span the gamut from preventative to emergency. Referrals are given on an as-needed basis. Children will also get tips on daily oral hygiene and free toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss.

Q: How much will parents have to pay for the dental services?

A: The GKAS event is free.

Q: How many dentists participate in the GKAS event?

A: More than 250 dentists, hygienists and dental assistants are expected to volunteer for the event at several public and private practice sites in NJ.

Q: What if a child participated last year; can they still participate this year?

A: Yes that child can participate. Although GKAS is not intended to be an alternative to regular visits to the dentist, we realize for some children this is the only access to dental care.