



PRESS RELEASE



SOUTH BAY CHILDREN'S HEALTH CENTER IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WESTERN LOS ANGELES DENTAL SOCIETY BRINGS AWARENESS OF NEED FOR QUALITY DENTAL CARE FOR UNDERSERVED YOUNG PEOPLE

LAWNDALE, CA (February 22, 2016) – On Friday and Saturday, February 26 and 27 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, South Bay Children's Health Center is once again collaborating with the Western Los Angeles Dental Society, the Lawndale School District, and many other dental professionals as volunteers, to build awareness of the need for high-quality dental care for underserved and uninsured children, teens and young adults throughout the South Bay.

More than 100 low-income children, teens and young adults who have been recently identified as in urgent need of dental care will receive a comprehensive dental exam, preventive, restorative and therapeutic treatment services and oral health and nutritional education all at no cost. South Bay Children's Health Center (SBCHC) is a nonprofit organization that provides these services to low-income families receiving Denti-Cal, or who are completely uninsured, throughout the year. These special days of care in February, are in observance of the national "Give Kids a Smile Day," founded by the American Dental Association in 2003.

"SBCHC works hard in the community to meet the most pressing dental and mental health needs of families with children all year long. Our "Give Kids a Smile Day" activities call attention to the need for quality oral health care for all, regardless of income level or other circumstances," says Christine Byrne, Executive Director. "This event is a true partnership between several professional organizations, dental professionals and companies reaching the dental industry

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throughout the South Bay."Participating dentists and dental hygiene professionals will volunteer onsite and many will complete work at their own private offices. And, several prominent local Oral Surgeons, Drs. Trent Westernoff, Barry Johns, Thomas Ying and Warren Brooks will provide general anesthesia and surgical extractions worth thousands of dollars for young patients in need over the two-day period.Patterson Dental Company, as well as other companies serving the dental industry has helped sponsor this year's event through invaluable product and service donations.

The majority of services will take place on site at the SBCHC Dental Clinic in Lawndale, at 14722 Hawthorne Blvd.

Dental decay remains an urgent health concern for families, particularly those without access to dental insurance or other means to obtain care. Over the two days, more than \$70,000 worth of treatment will be provided to approximately 100 underserved young people at no cost and families will be encouraged to come back to the clinic for follow up care, as well as long-term preventive care.

South Bay Children's Health Center has been serving the community through the provision of high-quality mental and oral health services since 1947. Today, SBCHC meets the needs of more than 25,000 primarily low-income, uninsured or underinsured children, teens and young adults each year.

The Western Los Angeles Dental Society is a professional membership organization with the mission of uniting the dental practitioners in the Western Los Angeles area for the purpose of advancing the art and science of dentistry, providing services and support to the members, and promoting the improvement of the health of the public."