

NEWSRELEASE



Because every child deserves a healthy smile™

IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Chris Drake
Phone: (704) 350-1600
Fax: (704) 350-1333
E-mail: cdrake@ncohf.org

4108 Park Road
Suite 406
Charlotte, NC 28209
(704) 350-1600
Fax (704) 350-1333
www.ncohf.org

Scottsdale Center Leaders Underwrite Toothfairy Grants to help National Children's Oral Health Foundation prevent pediatric dental disease

(Charlotte, NC—January 13, 2009) Through generous major gifts from Mr. Imtiaz Manji, Dr. Gordon Christensen, and Dr. Glen and Lisa Wysel, the Scottsdale Center leadership has committed to join National Children's Oral Health Foundation (NCOHF) to expand access to quality preventive oral health services for underserved children. NCOHF has awarded three \$10,000 Toothfairy Grants in each of the donors' names to NCOHF Affiliates programs.

Fern Ingber, NCOHF's president and CEO, expressed her gratitude. "Thanks to these donors' generosity, thousands of underserved children will receive critical preventive services to help them escape debilitating dental pain and life-long health issues that too-often result from lack of care. We are grateful to Scottsdale Center for partnering with NCOHF to transform our vision of access to quality preventive oral health services for all children into reality."

The **Imtiaz Manji Dental Toothfairy Grant to PrairieStar Health Center (PSHC)** provides oral health education to Head Start staff, parents and students enrolled in Kansas' McPherson/Marion County Head Start program. Students will also receive oral health screenings, fluoride varnish and referral to a dental home as needed. Sally Tesluk, the center's Executive Director, expressed how critical this funding is. "Very few dentists in McPherson accept Kansas Medicaid or SCHIP insurance. Because oral health examinations are required for all Head Start students, access to oral health care is crucial. For the program's participants, who are all low income, the funds to pay for dental services are simply not available. We are very thankful for this grant that will assist McPherson/Marion County Head Start families in accessing necessary oral health care."

Mr. Manji is CEO of the Scottsdale Center for Dentistry in Arizona, a post-graduate teaching center that emphasizes educational programs that enhance dental practitioners' personal and professional success. A visionary with a passion for teaching, he expressed his commitment to increasing access to life-saving oral health care. "Too many children suffer unnecessarily—I am thankful for the opportunity to connect vulnerable children with proper and critical care."

The **Dr. Gordon Christensen Dental Toothfairy Grant to Community Oral Health Services** supports activities that expand and enhance prevention education and treatment services to economically disadvantaged children of Monterey

County. Debi Diaz, executive director, cited, “Dental disease is the most diagnosed childhood disease in young children and the number one reason for missed school days in California. Last year 64% of children screened by Community Oral Health Services in Monterey County under age five had cavities; 24% required emergency services. It has been well documented that oral health has a direct correlation to one’s overall health and ability to learn.”

As senior academic advisor for the Scottsdale Center for Dentistry, Gordon Christensen, DDS, MSD, PhD, is widely recognized as one of the nation’s leading clinicians and educators of dental professionals. He is the founder and director of Practical Clinical Courses in Utah, an international continuing education organization for dentists, and the Scottsdale Center for Dentistry (SCD) in Arizona. Dr. Christensen has presented more than 45,000 hours of continuing education to thousands of dentists and team members, and founded the non-profit CRA Foundation (CRA) that has conducted research in all areas of dentistry since 1976. Dr. Christensen commented, “Just as Practical Clinical Courses and the Scottsdale Center make education a priority, so does NCOHF’s Affiliate network. I am delighted to support delivery of preventive education and early dental treatment to underserved children.”

The Dr. Glen and Lisa Wysel Dental Toothfairy Grant to United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries supports critical oral health education for school children. The program prevents dental disease through a successful combination of screening, tools and education for children participating in the Lifetime Smiles Program in Garden City, Kansas. The program has grown to include 72 schools in 13 counties, and has significantly reduced the prevalence of oral caries in school children. The program’s Executive Director, Stephanie Waggoner, said, “This type of generous funding helps us eliminate needless pain for thousands of school-aged children who wouldn’t otherwise have access to oral health care.”

Glen Wysel, DDS, is president of the Scottsdale Center for Dentistry in Arizona. Since 1986, he has dedicated the remainder of his career to help other dental professionals achieve the same financial freedom that enabled him to retire after 10 years of dentistry. He served as co-owner and director of Mercer Advisors until April 2007, when he became president of the Scottsdale Center. “Lisa and I are proud to help underserved children who are victim to the pain of dental disease. We are especially excited about the educational component of the program, an essential first step toward the solution,” said Dr. Wysel.

Grant recipients are members of NCOHF’s national Affiliate network, dedicated to delivering comprehensive oral health treatment and preventive educational services to thousands of economically disadvantaged children and their families.

About the National Children’s Oral Health Foundation (NCOHF)

The National Children’s Oral Health Foundation (NCOHF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, established with the sole purpose of eliminating the #1 chronic childhood illness: pediatric dental disease. NCOHF is dedicated to raising awareness of this debilitating disease, facilitating much-needed comprehensive pediatric oral health services, and eliminating preventable pediatric dental disease from future generations.

For more information about NCOHF, please visit www.AmericasToothfairy.org.

###