**NCOHF grants support community-based children’s care**

By Fred Michmershuizen, Online Editor

The money donated to National Children’s Oral Health Foundation: America’s Toothfairy is being put to good use. NCOHF recently announced it has awarded grants totaling $109,050 to eight not-for-profit community, university and hospital-based dental programs nationwide.

The grants are as follows:

- Catholic Healthcare West, Chandler, Ariz., $15,000
- Community Oral Health Services, Salinas, Calif., $15,000
- Sonrisas Community Dental Center, Half Moon Bay, Calif., $9,050
- The Children’s Dental Center, Inglewood, Calif., $15,000
- The Gary Center, La Habra, Calif., $10,000
- Indiana University School of Dentistry, Indianapolis, $15,000
- Community Dentistry on Wheels, Largo, Md., $15,000
- A Fluoride Connection Non Profit Corp., Madison, Wis., $15,000

According to the NCOHF, the grant recipients are members of the growing affiliate network delivering comprehensive preventive, restorative and education.

---

**Hello, San Antonio!**

The Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio will host the Texas Dental Association’s meeting May 6–9. Read about what there is to do in the city when you have some spare time.

See page 3A

---

**Economic hardship takes toll on teeth**

Is it true that people postpone or forgo dental treatment in difficult economic times? According to one recent survey of dental practitioners, the answer is, unfortunately, yes.

The Chicago Dental Society conducted a poll of 250 members to learn more about their opinions on current trends, dental topics and more. According to the survey, the effects of the recession on the dental industry have worsened over the last year.

More than 90 percent of dentists surveyed said their clients are putting off cosmetic and preventive procedures, the Chicago Dental Society reported. In addition, more than 75 percent of dentists said they have seen clients delay or forego dental treatment.
‘More should be done to improve children’s oral health,’ AGD says

By Fred Michmershuizen, Online Editor

According to the Academy of General Dentistry, more needs to be done to improve children’s oral health as oral diseases negatively impact learning, interfere with eating and contribute to poor self-esteem.

AGD President David F. Halpern, DMD, FAGD, testified in the nation’s capital recently during the first meeting of the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Committee on Oral Health Initiative. During his testimony, Halpern emphasized access to care and oral health literacy.

“Public schools have played a critical role in keeping our children healthy,” Halpern said. “Schools routinely hold programs to ensure healthy,” Halpern said. “Schools routinely hold programs to ensure

Halpern also expressed the support for initiatives that ensure that minority and rural populations receive quality oral health care services from dentists. Such initiatives, he said, could include loan repayment programs to dentists working in community health and underserved settings, the restoration of Title VII, and patient transportation and non-dental social services programs.

Halpern also spoke about the importance of shifting from a treatment-based concept of medicine to one based on prevention. He stated that this transformation can be achieved by assisting patients, physicians and communities to become oral health literate.

“Yes, the HHS must continue its water fluoridation programs as a fallback to maintain a minimal level of oral health in communities, but this is not nearly sufficient — utilization through greater oral health literacy is mandatory,” Halpern said.

Halpern also expressed his disappointment over the lack of a practicing private-practice dentist on the committee and encouraged the committee to reconsider appointing a general dentist from the private-practice community.

“IT is only through the continued generosity of NCOHF individual, organizational and corporate partners that America’s Toothfairy grant awards are possible,” said Fern Ingber, NCOHF president and CEO, in expressing gratitude to supporters.

“We are honored to serve as a comprehensive resource provider for our affiliate network of nonprofit health-care facilities, and we are grateful that so many donors share in the NCOHF mission to eliminate children’s unnecessary suffering from pediatric dental disease,” Ingber said.

A representative of A Fluoride Connection Non Profit Corp., one of the grant recipients, expressed gratitude to NCOHF for the financial support.

“We work in an area that has many rural poor farm families. Many don’t qualify for the state-offered dental health plan, and as a result our organization receives very low reimbursement from the state program,” said Kathleen Traut, executive director of A Fluoride Connection.

“We won’t turn any child away if they are uninsured or otherwise aren’t on the program, we simply get paid less. Funding from America’s Toothfairy has eased our financial worries in providing vital services for the little ones who won’t otherwise have any dental experiences at all. It is gratifying to share such a passion for children’s oral health with America’s Toothfairy,” Traut said.

“High tech handpiece — Shade D 40 • Slicing time about 60 s • Sphered for powerless SD-inlay registration of anteriorites (CAD/CAM) • Recommended by Gordon C. Christensen • Relia Christensen • William Dickerson • Hugh Dukers • Dr. James Dounoudis • Dr. David Garber • Dr. Paul Goldstein • Dr. Howard Glazer • Dr. Alastair Hermann • Dr. Karl Leinfelder • Dr. Roger Levin • Dr. Carl C. Mish • Dr. Dan Nathanson • Dr. David Redhead • Dr. Irwin Smigel • Dr. Jon Suzuki • Dr. Dennis Tartakower • Dr. Dan Ward

Dr. Joel Berg
Dr. L. Stephen Buchanan
Dr. Arnaldo Castellucci
Dr. Gordon Christensen
Dr. Rella Christensen
Dr. William Dickerson
Hugh Dukers
Dr. James Dounoudis
Dr. David Garber
Dr. Foy Goldstein
Dr. Howard Glazer
Dr. Alastair Hermann
Dr. Karl Leinfelder
Dr. Roger Levin
Dr. Carl C. Mish
Dr. Dan Nathanson
Dr. David Redhead
Dr. Irwin Smigel
Dr. Jon Suzuki
Dr. Dennis Tartakower
Dr. Dan Ward

Contact the Author:
Julia E. Wehkamp
j.wehkamp@dental-tribune.com

Dental Tribune Amercia, LLC
215 West 35th Street, Suite 801
New York, NY 10001
Tel.: (212) 244-7181
Fax: (212) 244-7185

All rights reserved.

Dental Tribune strives to maintain the utmost accuracy in its news and clinical reports. If you find a factual error or context that requires clarification, please contact Online Editor Robin Goodman at r.goodman@dental-tribune.com.

Dental Tribune cannot assume responsibility for the validity of product claims or for typographical errors. The publisher also does not assume responsibility for product names or statements made by advertisers. Opinions expressed by authors are their own and may not reflect those of Dental Tribune America.