As the holiday season is a time for giving and helping others, the organizers of the Greater New York Dental Meeting (GNYDM) decided the 2008 meeting was the perfect opportunity to commence a new program focused on improving children’s oral health. The program, “Greater New York Smiles,” was made possible by joining efforts with the United Federation of Teachers and Doral Dentist of New York.

“We must teach our children the importance of oral health early in their childhood,” said General Chairman of the Greater New York Dental Meeting, Dr. Clifford Salm. In order to introduce “Greater New York Smiles” and other educational programs, the meeting expanded its exhibits area by adding approximately 120,000 square feet. Children from local schools in all five New York City boroughs traveled by special field trip to last year’s 84th annual GNYDM at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. There they received oral hygiene instruction in a child-friendly atmosphere. The program emphasized the importance of oral care in a way that the children could understand and showcased step-by-step tooth care utilizing proper brushing technique.

Their visit began with the children viewing a film focused on increasing their knowledge about the significance of proper nutrition. One segment highlighted the effects of how eating various foods can impact oral health and why it is crucial to eat healthy foods. After the film, they watched a live demonstration that taught them about dental floss and showed them how to floss properly. Finally, the children had the opportunity to practice their newly learned brushing and flossing techniques at sinks on the exhibit floor under the supervision of licensed volunteers.

Upon departure, each child went home with a “goody bag” of dental treats that included a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, erasers in the shape of teeth and a dental coloring book with crayons. To maximize attendance, the program ran for three school days — Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

As the holiday season is a time for giving, the GNYDM was able to touch the lives of nearly 1,000 children by teaching them skills that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. We look forward to reaching many more students this year,” said Executive Director of the Greater New York Dental Meeting, Dr. Robert Edwah.

Be sure to watch the Web site, www.gnydm.com, for information and updates on this year’s expanded “Greater New York Smiles” program and all the other new programs offered at the 2009 GNYDM. Remember, there is never a pre-registration fee. Mark your calendar for Nov. 27-Dec. 2 and come be a part of the excitement of the 2009 Greater New York Dental Meeting, as well as experience all that New York has to offer!

For additional information, please contact the Greater New York Dental Meeting at 370 Seventh Ave., Suite 800, New York, N.Y., 10018-1806; Tel. (212) 398-6922; Fax (212) 398-6914; e-mail info@gnydm.com.

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The Greater New York Dental Meeting has heart, helps educate New York City’s children

‘Spring forward’ into annual sedation dentistry safety reviews

First Sedation Dentistry Safety Week held March 9–13

It was time to spring forward in more ways than one in March. While many people reset their clocks that month, DOCS Education initiated its first Sedation Dentistry Safety Week as an annual reminder for some 10,000 sedation dentistry practitioners and their staffs to review the procedures, equipment and supplies used with every patient.

Each day of the week focused on a different aspect of sedation dentistry such as important checklists for dentists and patients, and the vital role of dental assistants and staffs in sedation dentistry procedures, and also offered the opportunity for prac-