Established by the ADA Foundation (ADAF) in 1999, the Samuel Harris Fund is a permanent endowment, with a main objective of funding prevention and education programs to improve dental health of underserved children and to combat tooth decay.

The ADA Foundation is a catalyst for connecting people and changing lives. In its history, the ADA Foundation has disbursed nearly $36.5 million to support charitable activities. These include grants for dental research and access to care, awards and scholarships.

In addition, the ADA Foundation supports charitable assistance programs, such as relief grants to dentists and their dependents who are unable to support themselves due to injury, a medical condition, or advanced age; and grants to dentists who are victims of disasters. (Source: ADA Foundation)

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For example, elephants use their tusks — incisors that can weigh up to 150 pounds — as weapons. Beavers use their teeth to cut down trees to make lodges. The fangs of some snakes inject poison into their victims. Lions use their teeth to transport their young, defend themselves, and catch and tear apart food.

The special event will feature experts from the Maryland Zoo. Visitors will be able to see a prehistoric shark’s tooth as big as a baseball glove, and they can explore a special exhibit on the narwhal, an Arctic whale with a six-foot-long tooth.

Also on view at the museum are George Washington’s teeth, vintage toothpaste commercials and hands-on exhibitions about the power of a healthy smile.

The museum is located at 51 South Greene St., a short walk from the Inner Harbor. Admission is $7 for adults, $5 for seniors and students with ID, $3 for children ages 3 to 19; and free for ages 2 and younger. The museum is closed Mondays, Tuesdays and major holidays.

More information is available at (410) 706-0600 or online, at www.smile-experience.org.

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