



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

ADVOCACY • PUBLIC AWARENESS • EDUCATION

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Dental Champions Corner

Thank you to the Dental Champions who helped out during the Kansas Mission of Mercy (KMOM). Niki Sadler and Cathleen Talyor-Osborne both from Class 7, Robyne Goates (Class 6) and Kathy Hunt (Class 1). You can see their pictures from the event on the [OHK Facebook page](#).



[Free dental care for](#)

KMOM 2016 serves 1,231 people

On January 29-30, the [Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation](#) hosted the 15th Kansas Mission of Mercy in Topeka. During the two-day event, 1,231 people received dental care valued at \$1.2 million. The free dental clinic is open to anyone, and people are served on a first-come, first-serve basis. The first person was in line for services on Wednesday morning, in advance of the clinic opening early Friday. Nearly 1,000 volunteers were on hand to provide dental services, serve breakfast and lunch to patients and volunteers, and escort patients throughout the clinic. The Oral Health Kansas staff and many Dental Champions were among the KMOM 2016 volunteers. Photos can be found on the [Oral Health Kansas Facebook page](#).

A review of the news coverage of the event follows:

[Topeka Capitol-Journal, January 29, 2016](#)

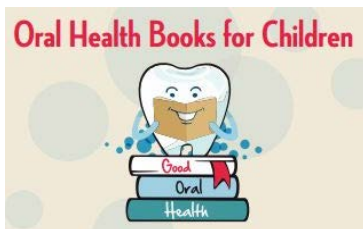
kids

For the month of February, Concorde Career College In Kansas City, Missouri, is providing free dental services to kids ages 1-18 through the [Give Kids A Smile Program](#).



Children's dental health books

Reading books is fun but reading books on oral health is even more fun! [Here](#) a list of recommended books on oral health. Start a conversation by looking at the book and talk about the characters teeth as well as your child's.



Kentucky's Medicaid program is improving health

One year into Medicaid expansion and Kentucky is seeing an increase in consumers utilizing their preventive services. Preventing illnesses leads to a healthier community! [Here](#) is an infographic that shows **116%** increase in dental services!

[KHI News Service, January 28, 2016](#)
[WIBW TV, January 29, 2016](#)
[KSNT TV, January 29, 2016](#)



OHK Staff, Kathy Hunt, speaks to a family to hear why they came to KMOM

National Children's Dental Health Month

February is National Children's Dental Health Month and this year's campaign is Star Wars. About 1 of 5 (20%) children aged 5 to 11 years have at least one untreated decayed tooth. Tooth decay is preventable!

Most parent's aren't aware that starting your child early with oral health education is important. You should take your child to the dentist as early as year one. Speaking with your child about the importance of oral health care and showing him/her, will help your child continue their habits on their own.

There are fun activities you can do with



Drink Display

February is busy! All of our drink displays have been sent out and visiting schools and dental offices around the state. If you want to reserve a drink display for the upcoming months let us know before they are booked!

The drink display is free for you to use and shipping costs are reimbursed. To reserve a drink display, [email us!](#)



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

800 SW Jackson, Suite 1120
Topeka, Kansas 66612
785-235-6039

info@oralhealthkansas.org

your child around oral health care. While doing these activities, talk about healthy foods and beverages that are important to keep our teeth strong!




Concerned Kansans speak about Medicaid expansion

The Medicaid expansion plan, the Bridge to a Healthy Kansas, was to be introduced this week in the House. The official version of the bill has not been submitted due to an unforeseen circumstance. Revisor Norm Furse, had slipped on ice and has several injuries, therefore he was not able to finish the bill. Luckily, they have the assistant revisor currently working on it and hope to move the process further.

This week, the Kansas community has spoken up about the need for expansion. Former Insurance Commissioner, Sandy Praeger, wrote a letter to the editor in the Lawrence Journal World, reminding everyone that in 1998, the idea of expanding the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) was also a debate. But instead of denying the opportunity, they visited and set goals that would work for all. As should be done with Medicaid expansion.


First Care Clinic's Chief Executive Officer, Bryan Brady explains in his letter to the editor in the Hays Daily News, in

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their clinic they provide primary care services for the uninsured. But what happens when someone uninsured needs to go to the hospital or needs surgery? If you are working but uninsured, you still cannot pay the bill.

Father Bob Schremmer, Diocese of Dodge City, wrote in The Hutchinson News, not to be indifferent. We should not leave others out in the cold and uninsured.

OHK will keep you updated as the session continues.



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