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ORAL HEALTH KANSAS
Weekly Wednesday Update

*Our Mission:
To improve oral health
in Kansas through
advocacy,
public awareness
and education.*

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Delta Dental Grant Contest

OHK did not win the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation mini grant contest, but we sincerely appreciate the votes of all our

Miles of Smiles: Innovatice Dental Program at Olathe Elementary Schools

A portable dental clinic is changing the lives of children in Olathe. Miles of Smiles (MOS) is a portable dental clinic set up onsite in Olathe, Kansas Title I elementary schools. The clinic provides a full range of dental hygiene services onsite at each school, including x-rays, for students who meet qualifications for the free and reduced lunch program and whose parents sign a treatment consent form.

A unique component of MOS is the partnership between John Fales, DDS, MS, a pediatric dentist in Olathe and Hayley Ferris, RDH/ECP, BSDH, program manager of the MOS clinic and an assistant clinical professor in the Dental Hygiene Program at UMKC.

Miles of Smiles was developed by a committee of Olathe School District administration and nurses and UMKC School of dentistry administration, staff, and faculty. It is truly an example of how improving the oral health of children in a community "takes a village." Melanie Simmer-Beck, RDH, MS, Associate Professor, serves and the project director. As a parent of children attending Olathe schools, Melanie realized that some children were coming to school with toothaches because their families had no money for dental care.

In 2007, after conversations with Cindy Galemore, Director of Health Services for Olathe District Schools, school nurses, principals, and the superintendent, a proposal for Miles of Smiles was submitted to REACH Healthcare Foundation. REACH awarded UMKC's School of Dentistry funds "to

supporters!

**Congratulations
to the great
winners:**

[Wichita
Children's
Home](#)

[Wichita State
University](#)

[Douglas County
Dental Clinic](#)

[Kansas
Association for
the Medically
Underserved](#)

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establish a mobile dental office with teledentistry technology to provide onsite oral health services using a dental hygienist (with an Extended Care Permit) in school-based settings."



The program was launched in 2008 in one elementary school serving 40 children. MOS expanded to 4 schools in its second year and is now in six elementary schools in the district and is serving more than 400 children annually.

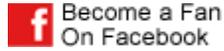
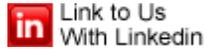
After a student has received the hygiene services during school hours, Hayley sends home to families a report on her services, a copy of the child's x-rays, and a step-by-step instruction sheet on how to make an appointment with a participating community dentist. Dr. Fales is one of those dentists.

In addition to accepting appointments for these referrals, Dr. Fales also sets aside one Friday a month to treat 7-9 children who are least likely to receive care. The children come from a different school each month. The appointments are during normal school hours. Hayley and the school district coordinate transportation and supervision of the children during the appointment. This prevents broken appointments. The children are triaged by need and access to care concerns by Hayley and the school nurses.

After the preventative care is completed in the MOS clinic, Hayley electronically sends Dr. Fales a complete set of information on each student: health history, parent signed consent forms, dental charting and X-rays. With accurate and complete information ahead of time, Dr. Fales is able to treat more complex cases and more patients per visit than if the child had to complete all the assessment and dental hygiene services in his dental office. Dr Fales also provide a dental home for each patient for any future needs or emergencies.

*** For more information, please contact Marcia Manter,
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If you have an idea, story or suggestion for a Oral Health Kansas Weekly
Wednesday Update please send an email to jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org



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