

Illini District  
Dental Society



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Champaign-Urbana Public Health District



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
March 8, 2016

**Contact:** Alicia Ekhoﬀ  
CUPHD Dental Program Coordinator  
(217) 531-4538 / [aekhoff@c-uphd.org](mailto:aekhoff@c-uphd.org)  
Amy Roberts, CUPHD Public Relations  
(217) 531-4264 / [aroberts@c-uphd.org](mailto:aroberts@c-uphd.org)  
Dr. Michael Ruffatto  
Illini District Dental Society President  
(847) 977-6722 / [mikeruffatto@gmail.com](mailto:mikeruffatto@gmail.com)

## **Free Dental Exams and Cleanings for Children on Saturday, March 12 at Parkland College**

*The Illini District Dental Society, Champaign-Urbana Public Health District,  
Parkland College Dental Hygiene and SmileHealthy Participate in  
Give Kids a Smile®*

Champaign, IL – The Illini District Dental Society will sponsor Give Kids a Smile (GKAS) Day on Saturday, March 12, 2016 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Parkland College Dental Hygiene Clinic located at 2400 W. Bradley, Champaign. The event is part of the Children's Dental Access Program through the American Dental Association® (ADA) that provides free oral healthcare services to children of low-income families.

On March 12, local dentists and hygienists are taking the opportunity to give back to the community by volunteering time and services for GKAS and providing free dental exams, cleanings, fluoride varnish treatments and dental sealants as needed to any child between the ages of 1 and 17. The oral health fair will offer a wide range of services and activities for everyone including: dental hygiene education; free toothbrushes; face painting; and visits and pictures with Flossie from the Illinois State Dental Society, the Tooth Fairy, and the Delta Dental Tooth Wizard. Appointments are not necessary; however, a parent or legal guardian must accompany the child. There are no income or residency requirements to receive services at the fair.

Dr. Michael Ruffatto, local General Dentist and President for the Illini District Dental Society, states "Give Kids a Smile is a way for dentists to join with others in the community to provide dental services to underserved children. Each year, we create a fun atmosphere for children and parents to gain a better understanding oral health. The need for

affordable dental care continues to grow. Maintaining good oral health and healthy eating habits are very important parts of a child's overall development. This program will help families assess oral health needs and give them the tools to maintain a healthy smile and life."

The Illini District Dental Society partners with Parkland Dental Hygiene, SmileHealthy, and the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District Children's Dental Clinic to provide Give Kids a Smile in Champaign.

For more information, please contact SmileHealthy at (217) 359-7404 or the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District Children's Dental Clinic at (217) 531-4538 or visit [www.c-uphd.org](http://www.c-uphd.org).

###