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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 15, 2010

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Seventh Annual "Give Kids A Smile Day" Planned *Free Dental Care to be Provided to Eligible Children*

Eastern Idaho—On Friday, February 5, an estimated 500 children from low-income families in Eastern Idaho will receive free dental services ranging from oral exams and x-rays, preventative (cleaning/fluoride/sealants) and restorative (fillings) care, to urgent treatment including extractions, as part of the national Give Kids a Smile Day. Approximately 50 dentists and their staffs in Idaho Falls/Ammon, Challis, Driggs/Victor, Rexburg, Rigby, Salmon, Shelley, St. Anthony, and Sugar City are volunteering to provide these services free of charge to eligible children. This project is a collaborative effort between Eastern Idaho Public Health District and the Upper Snake River Dental Society.

To be eligible for free dental care through the Give Kids a Smile Day event, children must meet the following conditions:

- Be between the ages of 4 and 18 years;
- **NOT** have a current Idaho Medicaid card or private dental insurance; and
- Meet these income guidelines:

Number in Family	Maximum Gross Income	
	Per Month	Per Year
2	\$1,942	\$23,312
3	\$2,441	\$29,296
4	\$2,940	\$35,280
5	\$3,438	\$41,264
6	\$3,936	\$47,248

(*for additional family members, add \$498 per month per person or \$5,984 per year per person)

"This year, the dental teams are focusing on providing sealants to as many children as possible," stated Elyse Baird, Eastern Idaho Public Health District's Dental Hygienist and one of the organizers for this annual event. "A sealant is a clear plastic coating that is applied to the chewing surfaces of children's permanent molars. The sealant helps prevent future decay on the teeth, which then avoids the need for fillings." According to Baird, the number of children with sealants in our region is lower than the state average.

A list of participating dental offices is located on Eastern Idaho Public Health District's website at www.idaho.gov/phd7 or can be obtained by calling the Idaho CareLine at 2-1-1 or 1-800-926-2588. If your child is eligible to receive services, you should call the participating dental office of your choice to make an appointment right away, as appointments will be accepted on a first come first served basis. A parent or legal guardian must accompany the child to the dental office to allow consent for procedures and to complete an accurate medical history.

Nearly half of children ages 2-9 years suffer from untreated tooth decay. "Dental disease is preventable. Brushing, flossing, regular dental visits, and having access to fluoride and sealants are inexpensive ways to prevent dental disease," states Dr. Jordan Higham, a participating dentist in this year's event. "We are committed to the dental health of the children in our communities," he said. "We encourage parents to take advantage of this free service." In 2009, approximately \$116,000 in free dental care was provided to 500 uninsured children in Eastern Idaho. Over 200 dental team members volunteered their services to make this event a huge success.

Appointments for this event are limited and are scheduled on a first-come first-served basis. For those individuals wanting to receive these free dental services, it is important to contact a participating dentist right away for an appointment. For more information on this event, please contact Elyse Baird at Eastern Idaho Public Health District by calling 533-3192.

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Editor's Note: A list of participating dentists (as of 1/8/10) is attached.

**Give Kids a Smile Participating Dentists
Friday February 5, 2010
Upper Snake River Dental Society**

AMMON/IDAHO FALLS

Gregg Baker	524-0644	Pediatric Dentistry
A. Cooper/N. Tanner/C. Stoddard	523-5400	Eagle Rock Dental
Doug Barnard & Steve Barnard	523-5400	Eagle Rock Dental
Kent Cutforth	523-3388	Cutforth Dental
Lorin Dixon & Melissa Dixon	524-2771	Dixon Dental
David Heninger	524-1700	Heninger Dental
David Hill	542-5300	Hill Dental
Robert Nielson	529-5565	My Dentist
G.Peterson/Hoover/Christensen	529-3660	Channing Way Dental
Preston Polson & Scott Davis	522-4491	Taylorview Dental
Randy Smith & Mark Marlowe	542-1333	Pediatric Dentistry
Van Stosich	522-8061	Stosich Dental
Oliver Thuernagle	523-0840	Legacy Dental
Kirk Tingey & Rex Thompson	525-8383	Idaho Falls Dental Group
Jeffrey Ybarguen	542-9900	Elite Dental Care
John Burtenshaw	529-3007	Kid's Dental
Jordan Higham (on Sat. 2/6/10 only)	529-2199	Just 4 Kidds
Mike Elison	522-7216	Elison Dental Center
Ryan Kidman	523-5090	Creekside Dental

CHALLIS

Thomas McGowan	879-2366	McGowan Dental
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DRIGGS/VICTOR

Stuart Marshall	354-9700	Cottonwood Dental
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REXBURG

Stacey Bauer	359-2224	Eagle Rock Dental Rexburg
Layne Hacking	359-2345	Madison Clinic Dentistry
Spencer Mauseth	552-5439	Madison Pediatric Dentistry
Thomas Snarr	356-4240	Snarr Dental
Dirk Strobel	356-4400	Strobel Dental
Lane Ward	356-7562	Ward Dental
Scott Wilkes	356-9262	Dental Health Center

RIGBY

Ben Dansie	745-1911	Dansie Dental
Robert Ellis	745-0400	West Wind Dental
Quinn Mikesell	745-8788	Cedar Creek Dental

SALMON

Mark Oliverson	756-2262	Salmon Dental Center
Greg Holbrook	756-2899	Pinecreek Dental

SHELLEY

Bryce Hanson & Steve Nielson	357-7611	River Valley Dental
John Stohl	357-2400	Shelley Dental
Curt Carpenter	357-7900	Stone Ridge Dental

ST. ANTHONY

Brizzee, Toenjes, & Orme	624-3757	
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SUGAR CITY

Bo Crofoot	656-0013	Cornerstone Family Dental
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PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP YOUR APPOINTMENT. If you are unable to keep the appointment please notify the dental office as soon as possible. 1/8/10 eb