



**DENTAL HEALTH MONTH CELEBRATED BY GIVING BACK**

HICKORY, NC – The Catawba County Public Health Dental Practice celebrates Children’s Dental Health Month, a February health observance, by participating in the national Give Kids A Smile program.

Dental professionals across Catawba County are opening their doors to provide restorative and preventive dental health services to children for free in honor of the Give Kids A Smile program.

Dentists and staff participating include Dr. Tom Carnaggio, Dr. George Clay, Dr. Ashley Collins, Dr. Michael Cordora, Dr. Lena Eldridge, Dr. David Gaddis, Dr. Bryan Graham, Dr. Coke Gunter, Dr. Delores Hammer, Dr. Darryl Hatchett, Dr. Mark Helton, Dr. Kristin Herring, Dr. Gary Jones, Dr. Kimberly Jones, Dr. Ron Key, Dr. William Litaker, Dr. Patrick Maddy, Dr. John McAllister, Dr. Ross Penland, Dr. Jason Sain, Dr. Jerry Sowers Jr., and Dr. Richard Troutman.



**Catawba County Public Health dentist, Dr. Patrick Maddy, performs a visual oral exam during the Give Kids A Smile program.**

“Between dental professionals and community volunteers, Catawba County will have at least 300 people working to support the efforts of the program throughout the month,” said Cindy W. Sigmon, Public Health Dental Hygienist for the North Carolina Oral Health Section serving Catawba County. “I anticipate around \$100,000 of free dental care will be given back to our community through this initiative.”

Sigmon, through the North Carolina Oral Health Section, provided dental sealant education and dental screenings to more than 2,000 children in Catawba County. Through those screenings and dental education programs, 280 children were selected to participate in the Give Kids A Smile program.

The American Dental Association (ADA) began the Give Kids A Smile program in 2003 as a way for ADA members to join with others in the community to provide dental services to underserved children.

The Catawba County Public Health Dental Practice accepts Medicaid and HealthChoice and serves children ages 1 to 21. Appointments can be made by calling (828) 695-5778.

Located off Fairgrove Church Road behind Catawba Valley Medical Center in Hickory, N.C., Catawba County Public Health provides health and education services to eligible men, women, and children in the community. For more information, please call (828) 695-5800 or visit [www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth](http://www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth).

*“Leading the Way to a Healthier Community”*

