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FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1884

MEDIA ADVISORY: Jan. 28, 2008

Health/Community Item

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**FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION TO
*GIVE KIDS A SMILE***

NORTHWEST – As a part of the Florida Dental Association’s (FDA) Project: Dentists Care program, Florida dentists will hold several *Give Kids a Smile* (GKAS) events throughout Children’s Dental Health Month in February. Sponsored by the Florida Dental Health Foundation and DenTek® Oral Care Inc., the event will provide free dental care to thousands of children throughout Florida.

“GKAS is a strong example of the charitable work of dentists, dental hygienists and dental assistants who join together for a common cause,” PDC President Dr. David Ferlita said. “Last February, more than \$1 million in dental care was provided to disadvantaged children. We hope to exceed this milestone in 2008.”

GKAS is a national dental-access program initiated in 2003 by the American Dental Association (ADA) to be observed on the first Friday in February. The FDA observes GKAS throughout the entire month of February, but is increasing GKAS events throughout the year as well.

PDC, an FDA charitable organization, is a network of dentists throughout Florida that provides dental care to patients who otherwise could not afford it. The program conducts events such as *Project Christmas Smile* and *New Smiles for the New Year*, in addition to GKAS.

The FDA is a Tallahassee-based, statewide, professional association representing member-dentists in Florida. Founded in 1884 by 12 dentists, the FDA now has almost 7,000 members, representing about 70 percent of all Florida-licensed dentists. A constituent society of the ADA, the FDA’s mission is to improve the oral health of Florida residents through high practice standards, continuous professional education, public advocacy and improving the practice environment.

GKAS events in Northwest Florida will take place:

Friday, Feb. 1

8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Gulf Coast Community College Health Science Center

5230 W. Hwy 98

Panama City, FL 32401

PDC Coordinator: Dr. Michael Grandy

Children expected: 80

Dentists: 20-25

(850) 271-2341

Friday, Feb. 1

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 8

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Okaloosa-Walton College

100 College Blvd.

Niceville, FL 32578

PDC Coordinator: Dr. Erin Sutton

Children expected: 80-150

Attendees: Local officials

Dentists: 20

Additional activities: Educational videos, oral health care instructions, games, drawings, clinic tours

*Children are pre-selected

(850) 729-6444

Saturday, Feb. 16

8 a.m.

Jackson County Health Department

4th St.

Marianna, FL 32446

PDC Coordinator: Dr. Robert W. Payne

Children expected: 40

Attendees: Local officials

Dentists: 6-10

*Children are pre-selected

(850) 526-2511

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