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FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1884

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Health/Community Item

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**FLORIDA DENTAL ASSOCIATION PROVIDES
CHILDREN AND SENIORS WITH
*NEW SMILES FOR THE NEW YEAR***

PALM BEACH GARDENS – As a part of the Florida Dental Association’s (FDA) Project: Dentists Care (PDC) program, local dentists today held *New Smiles for the New Year*. Sponsored by the North Palm Beach Dental Society (NPBDS), an FDA affiliate, the event provided free dental care children from Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida (BBBS) and seniors through the Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DEA).

“By providing new smiles to underserved children for the New Year, we are ensuring a bright future not only in oral health, but in overall well-being,” said NPBDS President Dr. Nicolas C. Defabrique. “Dental care is an integral part of physical health and we hope to continue to hold this event in future years.”

Almost 50 local children involved with BBBS and 10 seniors recruited through DEA received pro bono dental care during the event. In addition, volunteer dentists gave oral-health goody bags to the children so they could continue their dental care at home.

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 organization has 46 associate member dental-care organizations throughout the state. The program’s main event each year is *Give Kids a Smile* (GKAS) during February’s Children’s Dental Health Month.

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. The FDA maintains three offices in Tallahassee and has 60 employees. In addition, the organization has six regional component dental associations and 35 local affiliate associations. A constituent society of the American Dental Association, 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.

For information on about the FDA, visit www.floridadental.org. For additional information about Big Brothers Big Sisters, visit www.bigbrothersbigsisters.org.