

Program Outcomes

The Give Kids A Smile program has been very successful since its inception in 2003.

- Over 2,700 kids have received oral health care through the GKAS Program.
- Over \$1,000,000 of free services have been donated by the dentists and their staff.
- Over 50% of the children screened return to the dentist for restorative work.
- 5% to 10% of the children have eight or more cavities that will be fixed.



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Bethany for Children & Families is a voluntary, not-for-profit agency that has provided services to children and families in western Illinois and eastern Iowa for 110 years.

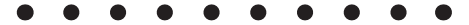
The organization consists of a professional team of social workers, licensed counselors, case managers, and educators.

Bethany for Children & Families is fully accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA), is a licensed child placing agency in Iowa and a licensed child welfare agency in Illinois.



Give Kids A Smile

Provides preventative and restorative care to children who do not have access to oral health care.



Give Kids A *Smile*

What is the Give Kids A Smile program?

The Give Kids A Smile (GKAS) program is a community program and national screening day aimed to increase access to dental care to the underserved, low-income children. This program is endorsed by the American Dental Association (ADA) and the ADA Foundation and is coordinated locally by the GKAS Board of Advisors. It

is one of the many community services programs of Bethany for Children & Families.

The screening day usually takes place on the first Friday in February, but some dentists pick a different day to participate based upon their office schedule.



What does my child receive while in the program?

Children who qualify for this program receive the following dental services free of charge:

- education to help improve oral health
- cleaning
- exam
- x-rays
- fluoride treatment



Most, but not all dentists also provide follow-up care. This is based on the availability of volunteer dentists.

These services may include:

- amalgam and composite fillings
- sealants
- extractions
- root canals
- orthodontia

Who goes with my child to the dentist?

Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the dental office with their children. If a child is referred to a specialist for dental work the general dentist cannot complete, the parent must accompany the child to his/her appointments. In general, outside volunteers, school personnel, nurses, and different agency workers accompany the children to their dental visit. School buses and private shuttle vans are used to transport the children to the dentist on the screening day. If needed, these vehicles will also take the children back to the dentist for their restorative work, but this is offered on a case-by-case basis.



What qualifies my child for these services?

GKAS services are available to children ages three to 15 who are at or below 200% of the federal poverty level, who have never been to a dentist, who do not have dental insurance, or have Medicaid but cannot find a provider who accepts that type of insurance.

Where does the program take place?

Give Kids A Smile takes place in the offices of the volunteer dentists. Eighty to 90 dentists, plus their own staff, volunteer for this annual program.



How are referrals handled for this program?

School nurses and agency personnel identify potential children for this program. Once children are identified, consent forms are sent home for the parent/guardian to fill complete. The forms are returned to the school nurse/agency who then gives them to the Oral Health Care Coordinator. The coordinator reviews the forms for completeness and then, based on the information given, decides whether or not a child is allowed into the program.



Keeping kids *safe* and *helping* parents *care* for their children for 110 years