

For Immediate Release

## Oral Health Foundation is Renamed DentaQuest Foundation

Boston, MA -- As of April 1, 2009, the Oral Health Foundation is renamed the DentaQuest Foundation ([www.DentaQuestFoundation.org](http://www.DentaQuestFoundation.org)).

Our new name shows our affiliation with the DentaQuest oral health enterprise. Our collective mission is to improve oral health and we do this in a number of ways: through administration of quality dental benefit programs (DentaQuest), research and improvements focused on the efficiency and effectiveness of oral health delivery systems (DentaQuest Institute, formerly Catalyst Institute), and our work as a foundation. Together, we are united in our mission to improve oral health.

During 2009, the DentaQuest Foundation will continue to act on three key components of the United States' Surgeon General's 2003 *Call to Action*:

- Change perceptions of oral health,
- Replicate effective programs and proven methods, and
- Increase collaborations and partnerships focused on oral health improvements.

The Foundation is partnering with national philanthropies and health funders, along with health care associations, dental and non-dental providers, national and state health policy leadership, coalitions, and community health advocates in collaborative action for sustainable change, and systems improvements.

*The DentaQuest Foundation* ([www.DentaQuestFoundation.org](http://www.DentaQuestFoundation.org))

The DentaQuest Foundation, based in Boston, Massachusetts, supports and promotes optimal oral health. Since the Foundation was formed in 2000, it has worked to change perceptions about oral health and disease, promote effective models of care, remove barriers between people and health services, and cultivate public and private partnerships for better oral health. From 2000 to 2008, the Foundation provided \$17 million in grant funding toward these priorities.

*DentaQuest* ([www.DentaQuest.com](http://www.DentaQuest.com))

DentaQuest, headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts, is the fourth largest oral health enterprise in the United States, working in 23 states and the District of Columbia. DentaQuest takes an integrated and holistic approach that considers all aspects of oral health: from the administration of dental benefit plans (commercial and government) critical to prevention, to the work of the DentaQuest Institute on evidence-based research that improves the effectiveness and efficiency of delivery of care, to the philanthropic work of the DentaQuest Foundation in elevating public awareness and identifying solutions to oral health issues and disparities. DentaQuest is committed to improving the oral health of the residents of the communities it serves.





**FOR RELEASE**

May 7, 2009

**DentaQuest Foundation Welcomes New Board of Directors**

*New and remaining members will build a strong future for the Foundation*

**BOSTON, MA**— The DentaQuest Foundation is pleased to welcome new members to its Board of Directors. In collaboration with local, state and national partners, the Foundation works to reduce health inequities, highlight prevention, foster civic engagement, and influence systems that promote oral health beyond the clinical setting.

Joining the DentaQuest Foundation Board of Directors are Dr. Linda Niessen, Chief Clinical Officer, DENTSPLY International; Donald Kenney, CEO, EquiServe, Inc. (retired) ; Marion Kane, Executive Director, Barr Foundation (retired); Dr. Caswell Evans, University of Chicago at Chicago, College of Dentistry, University of Illinois in Chicago, Health Research and Policy Centers; Dr. Norman Tinanoff, Department of Health Promotion and Policy, University of Maryland; and Michael McPherson, Spencer Foundation. “We look forward to the insights and contributions of our new Board members as we move forward with our work to improve oral health in communities of need,” said Ralph Fuccillo, DentaQuest Foundation President.

The Foundation extends its gratitude to departing board members Judith A. Jones, DDS, MPH, DScD Chairman, Department of General Dentistry, Boston University Goldman School of Dental Medicine, Clare D. McGorrian, Esq., Attorney, Health Law Counsel and Consulting, Michael Nacey, Esq. President, Weston Partners, Shannon P. O’Brien, former CEO, Girl Scouts Patriot’s Trail Council, and Scott O’Gorman, Chief Financial Officer Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island. Fuccillo noted, “Their leadership, guidance, and dedication have been a key to the Foundation’s growth and success in meeting our mission and in establishing us as a national voice for oral health improvements.”

***About the DentaQuest Foundation***

([www.DentaQuestFoundation.org](http://www.DentaQuestFoundation.org))

The DentaQuest Foundation was established in 2000 to support and promote optimal oral health. Foundation grantmaking and outreach emphasizes community solutions and system-wide prevention programs that increase access to care for underserved populations. The Foundation also works to promote the importance of oral health through collaborative, community-wide awareness.

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Bringing Medical and Dental Care to the Underserved of VA**

*Ralph Fuccillo of the DentaQuest Foundation joins  
volunteers and health professionals for 10th annual health event*

**Wise, Va.** – Beginning Friday, July 24, more than 1,000 volunteers and health professionals will set up shop in this rural Southwest Virginia town to offer free basic dental services and primary medical care to those in need.

Remote Area Medical is organizing the Health Expedition at the Wise County Fairgrounds, which in past years, has seen more than 8,000 patients over the 3 day period.

**Ralph Fuccillo**, President of the **DentaQuest Foundation**, the largest U.S. philanthropy focused on oral health, will be in attendance to lend a hand and speak to participants about good oral health and dental disease prevention.

Fuccillo is joining other volunteers at the Expedition as part of his ongoing collaborative work with **Steve Pollock**, President of **Doral Dental**, and at the request of **Terry Dickinson, DDS**, President of the **Virginia Dental Association**. Doral Dental is a leader in oral health and dental benefits as the only national dental benefits provider focusing exclusively on government programs. Doral Dental's programs are supported by the philanthropic work of the DentaQuest Foundation. Dr. Dickinson collaborates with Doral Dental and the DentaQuest Foundation on community engagement.

"I am proud to be working alongside hundreds of volunteers and medical professionals who have donated time to provide dental and medical services to those in need," said Fuccillo. "At a time when people across the country are grappling with the cost of health care, basic check ups are crucial to prevent more serious illness from occurring."

Fuccillo and Pollock emphasize that dental disease is almost entirely preventable. Yet without regular dental screenings and preventive measures like sealants, dental disease often goes untreated and can result in cavities, pain and infection which can inhibit learning, speech, and eating, leading to problems in school and poor nutrition. Those in rural communities are especially at risk, since early incidences of dental disease disproportionately affect minority and low-income children.

At the event, dental care and medical services will be provided at no cost on a first-come, first-serve basis. This is a much needed service at a time when, according to the Congressional Budget Office, 45 million Americans, or 17 percent of the population under the age of 65, are without health insurance.

RAM has conducted more than 600 expeditions in the United States and overseas. Their volunteer corps is dedicated to serving mankind by providing free health, dental and eye care, veterinary services, and technical and educational assistance to those living in remote areas. The RAM Health Expedition runs through Sunday July 26.

#### **About Ralph Fuccillo**

Ralph Fuccillo has served as President of the DentaQuest Foundation since 2006 and is a seasoned leader in the non-profit sector having had a lifelong career in education and health and human services. As an advocate for disease prevention and health promotion, his work focuses on the social determinants of health, policy development, and behavior change to reduce preventable illnesses.

#### **About the DentaQuest Foundation**

The DentaQuest Foundation is committed to improving the oral health of all Americans and supports sustainable programs aimed at making oral health care accessible and affordable - particularly for vulnerable populations and children.

To interview Ralph Fuccillo or Steve Pollock, please call:  
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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **Pew Center on the States, W.K. Kellogg Foundation and DentaQuest Foundation Partner on Report on Children's Dental Health**

Boston, MA – August, 2009 – The Pew Center on the States, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the DentaQuest Foundation have joined together to produce a 50-state report on children's dental health, to be released this fall.

Tooth decay is the most common childhood disease, affecting nearly 60 percent of Americans aged 18 and under. Between 1994 and 2004 it increased by 15 percent among kids aged two to five. Eighty percent of dental disease in children is concentrated in 25 percent of the population, and poor families face disproportionately high barriers to getting care for their kids. A lack of dentists who accept insurance and the uneven geographic distribution of dental providers are key obstacles to adequate access. Over 49 million people reside in over 4,000 areas in the U.S. without enough dentists.

The report will analyze all 50 states on how well or poorly they are faring on a number of critical issues relating to children's dental health. The final document will include state-specific information on the rate of untreated cavities among 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, school-based prevention efforts, community water fluoridation, Medicaid program performance, and shortages of dentists. The report will demonstrate the important role states play in providing access to dental care for children.

"The DentaQuest Foundation is pleased to be partnering with the Pew Center on the States [[pewcenteronthestates.org](http://pewcenteronthestates.org)] and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation [[wkkf.org](http://wkkf.org)] on this 50-state report of children's oral health," said Ralph Fuccillo, President of the DentaQuest Foundation. "It is our hope that the information will strengthen the ability of local, state, and national leaders to develop initiatives that will improve the health and lives of children."

*The DentaQuest Foundation ([DentaQuestFoundation.org](http://DentaQuestFoundation.org)) was established in 2000 to support and promote optimal oral health. The Foundation's grantmaking and outreach activities emphasize community-based solutions that increase access to care for underserved populations and systems changes that support attainment of optimal oral health. The Foundation also works to promote the importance of oral health through collaboration and raising awareness of the importance of oral health.*

To interview Ralph Fuccillo, please call:  
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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**December 18, 2009**

**DentaQuest Foundation, Health Foundation of South Florida, and  
The Children's Trust Support New *Healthy Smiles in Our Schools* Program  
for Miami-Dade County**

**Miami** –The DentaQuest Foundation is partnering with Health Foundation of South Florida, The Children's Trust, and two Miami community health centers to introduce the new *Healthy Smiles in Our Schools* program to public schools in Miami-Dade County.

The goal of *Healthy Smiles in Our Schools* is to increase the number of children receiving preventive and restorative dental care and to deliver these services in a practical and cost-effective way – at school where the children spend most of their day. The program will be operated in partnership with Health Connect in Our Schools, the healthcare program operated by The Children's Trust in Miami Dade public schools.

The DentaQuest Foundation is supporting *Healthy Smiles in Our Schools* with two grants, each worth \$50,000, awarded to **Borinquen Health Care Center** and to **Community Health of South Florida**, who will be providing the dental services. The grants will allow the two health centers to purchase portable dental equipment and supplies for this new at-school oral health program. Health Foundation of South Florida is providing \$69,000 to fund the technical assistance needed to implement the program. This program will be piloted in 27 schools to improve the oral health of South Florida's children and is targeted at children who do not currently receive dental care.

Dental disease, also known as tooth decay, is the most common chronic childhood disease, five times more common than asthma. It is also preventable with proper care. Good oral health is an important part of a child's overall well being, especially as they and their teeth are developing.

The *Healthy Smiles in Our Schools* program will provide dental exams and treatment. These are crucial to identify risks and help prevent more serious problems from occurring such as tooth decay and gum disease. Dentists can even identify early signs of other diseases such as diabetes and vitamin deficiencies during exams. Without regular prevention measures like exams and sealants on molars, dental disease often goes untreated and can result in cavities, pain and infection. Untreated dental disease can interfere with a child's learning, speech, and eating, leading to poor nutrition and problems in school.

*Healthy Smiles in Our Schools* is the result of a unique partnership of leaders in health care and philanthropy. They include the two community health centers, Safety Net Solutions, a program of the DentaQuest Institute, which is providing technical advisory services to the participating community health center dental staff as they launch *Healthy Smiles in Our Schools*, the DentaQuest Foundation and Health Foundation of South Florida, and the community sponsorship and support of The Children's Trust and DentaQuest's government dental benefits business.

For the participating health center dental programs, the school-based program is an opportunity to provide necessary preventive care to children in Miami-Dade County and to introduce their families to the health centers for ongoing, comprehensive health care.

These grants support the mission of the DentaQuest Foundation to strengthen community initiatives and strategies, to strengthen the dental care safety net, to increase access to care for vulnerable children, and ultimately, to improve oral health.

***About the DentaQuest Foundation***

The DentaQuest Foundation is committed to optimal oral health for all Americans through its support of prevention and access to affordable oral health care, and through its partnerships with funders, policy makers and community leaders. For more information please visit [dentaquestfoundation.org](http://dentaquestfoundation.org).

***About the DentaQuest Institute and Safety Net Solutions***

The DentaQuest Institute engages in oral health quality improvement research and technical assistance, provided through the Safety Net Solutions program that contributes to more effective and efficient oral health care delivery. For more information please visit [dentaquestinstitute.org](http://dentaquestinstitute.org).

***About Health Foundation of South Florida***

Health Foundation of South Florida supports efforts to make the region a beacon of innovative and effective multicultural approaches to health promotion and health care. As a grant making foundation, Health Foundation of South Florida's mission is to improve health outcomes and quality community-based programs for underserved individuals in Broward, Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties by focusing on initiatives and programs that support healthy aging, healthy lifestyles, preventive measures, primary care and oral health. Since 1993, the Foundation awarded more than \$84 million in grants and direct program support. For more information please visit [hfsf.org](http://hfsf.org).

***About The Children's Trust***

The Children's Trust is a dedicated source of revenue established by voter referendum to improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County -- because all children are our children. The Children's Trust supports programs and engages in effective collaborations that lead to high quality services and best practices that improve the lives of children and families in Miami-Dade County. The Trust encourages creative approaches to coordinating, integrating and funding services across and within the areas of health, safety, development and to promote increased parental and community involvement on behalf of all our children. For more information please visit [thechildrenstrust.org](http://thechildrenstrust.org).

***About Borinquen Health Care Center***

Borinquen Health Care Center operates a comprehensive primary health, dental, and behavioral health center in Miami-Dade County, (Wynwood, Allapattah, Melrose, Little River, Little Haiti, Little Havana, North Miami, North Miami Beach, Biscayne Gardens, West Dade/Sweetwater), a mobile medical unit, a behavioral health resources center, a new access point in West Dade/Sweetwater, and a satellite clinic in the Village South. For more information please visit [borinquenhealth.org](http://borinquenhealth.org).

***About Community Health of South Florida***

Community Health of South Florida provides affordable primary and behavioral health services to residents of South Florida at seven state of the art care centers located in Miami, Florida City, Marathon Key, Homestead, Naranja and Perrine and through 27 school-based programs. For more information please visit [chisouthfl.org](http://chisouthfl.org).

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