



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Dental Aid to Provide Free Dental Care for 75 Children in Boulder, Louisville, and Longmont, CO through Give Kids A Smile® Day**

#### *Give Kids A Smile Underscores Critical Need in Colorado*

(Lafayette, CO, January 25, 2016) — Nonprofit dental clinic, Dental Aid, Inc., to participate in the national event, Give Kids A Smile®, on February 5, 2016 at their clinics in Boulder, Longmont and Louisville, Colorado. They expect to provide free dental services for 75 underserved children aged 1-18 that would have cost over \$20,000. Dental Aid has committed to providing follow up care for these children this year, as well.

Statistics show that nearly one in four children between the ages of 1 and 11 have untreated cavities in their baby teeth according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Many children enrolled in Medicaid do not receive services throughout the year.

“We are pleased to again be a part of this program in our community,” said Dennis Lewis, president and CEO of Dental Aid, Inc. “Helping children in our community have healthy teeth meets our mission statement to improve the quality of life of children whose parents struggle to afford dental care, by providing quality, affordable dental services.”

This year’s event will be held on February 5, 2016 at Dental Aid’s clinics in Boulder, Longmont, and Louisville, and will provide free dental care including complete dental exams, x-rays, and additional dental work as time permits for uninsured children aged 1-18 years.

Space is limited. Parents should call their closest Dental Aid location to set up their child’s appointment:

- Boulder clinic – 303-499-7072
- Louisville clinic – 303-665-8228
- Longmont clinic – 303-682-2619

#### ***About Give Kids a Smile Day***

The American Dental Association (ADA) launched the Give Kids A Smile® program nationally in 2003 as a means for the dental community to provide services to underserved children. About 350,000 to 400,000 children each year, benefit from this event, thanks to the efforts of over 40,000 volunteers nationwide.

Give Kids A Smile® is held annually to:

- Provide free dental service to individuals that qualify.
- Raise awareness of the untreated dental disease epidemic occurring locally and nationally.
- To create local private and public partnerships to increase access to dental health care to solve the crisis.

LOUISVILLE: 877 South Boulder Road, Louisville, Colorado 80027 • 303-665-8228

BOULDER: 4155 Darley Avenue, Suite C, Boulder, Colorado 80305 • 303-499-7072

LONGMONT: 1715 Princess Drive, Longmont, Colorado 80501 • 303-682-2619

ADMINISTRATIVE: 1285 Centaur Village Drive, Suite 200, Lafayette, Colorado 80026 • 720-328-2619



The high volume of response to this event shows a clear gap between those with and without good dental health. Considering the total health is connected to oral health, leaders of our state should be concerned about the financial barriers to dental care.

Currently in Colorado, the Medicaid program is underfunded. It allows an annual dental benefit of up to \$1000 per state fiscal year. Even with outside resource support, many must go without preventative care, which frequently leads to the need for more costly emergency treatment.

### ***About Dental Aid***

Dental Aid provides compassionate, affordable, high quality dental care and education to low-income and uninsured residents of Colorado's Boulder and Broomfield counties.

The long term clinical focus of Dental Aid follows a chronic disease management model directed at prevention, education and treatment in the early stages of disease. In addition to direct clinical care, Dental Aid prioritizes education and outreach to high-risk patients including:

- Families and children of all ages
- Pregnant women
- People with chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and HIV/AIDS
- People with physical, mental or emotional disabilities

Dental Aid was one of the first stand-alone, nonprofit, complete-care dental clinics in the U.S. The organization was founded in 1974 as a referral organization and opened its first full-service clinic in 1980. Today, Dental Aid provides dental care to more than 8,000 children and adults annually. It provides services through three clinics (Boulder, Longmont and Louisville, CO) and a satellite clinic at the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless. In addition, portable dental equipment is used to bring dental care to the homebound or those living in long term care facilities. For more information, visit [www.dentalaid.org](http://www.dentalaid.org).

### **For more info, please contact either:**

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