Dental Home Day Turns Five

Time sure flies. While that’s hardly an observation for the ages, it certainly applies to Dental Home Day. The 2017 Dental Home Day will be at Children’s National Health System on Wednesday, May 24, during AAPD 2017 in Washington, D.C.

It will be our fifth annual Dental Home Day, which has been sponsored each year by Sunstar Americas, Inc. The event is designed to give back to the AAPD Annual Session host community by providing care for up to 100 children, providing participant children with ongoing care for the following year, and raising awareness of the importance of child oral health.

Every Dental Home Day has been different.

- **AAPD 2013, Orlando**—Our host clinic, Orange Blossom Family Health Center, made our first Dental Home Day a huge success, with more than 90 children receiving care that day. More than 50 AAPD volunteers participated.
- **AAPD 2014, Boston**—Tufts University School of Dental Medicine played host to our second Dental Home Day. More than 50 volunteers, dental students and pediatric dental residents saw nearly 80 children that day.
- **AAPD 2015, Seattle**—The Center for Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Washington cranked up our third Dental Home Day, with 40 volunteers, dental students and pediatric dental residents seeing 156 children (only 4 missed appointments). The Center also saw every wait-listed child following the event.
- **AAPD 2016, San Antonio**—The School of Dentistry at the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio upped the Dental Home Day stakes, holding the event in two locations: their new dental school clinic and their community-based clinic. Between both locations, UTHSCSA saw more than 200 patients!
- **AAPD 2017, Washington, D.C.**—We’re anticipating the 2017 event will care for 100 patients – the majority of whom will be special needs or medically-compromised children. It will be our first Dental Home Day held in a children’s hospital.

Thanks to the generosity of Sunstar Americas, Inc., volunteers, and host clinic personnel, more than 500 children since 2013 have received care because of Dental Home Day. And 100 more will receive care on May 24.

There are many intervention events held around the country. They usually cover a day or so and they’re over. Yes, these events can provide interim relief for children in need, but where do these children go after the last patient has been seen and the event pulls up stakes? Yes, some care is better than no care, but that’s why Dental Home Day is a day of service and a year of care. We hope it’s the beginning of a lasting patient/parent-dentist relationship.

Dental Home Day is the embodiment of our entire approach to grantmaking. We do our best to ensure every dollar we grant supports activities that are designed to keep children in care throughout the year.

We can’t do any of this without your support. Thanks to you, HSHC grantees give kids smiles every day!