

Greene County Health Care receives \$1,000 for children's dental education

Greene County Health Care Inc. (GCHC) recently received a \$500 grant from the Delta Dental Foundation as a part of the 2016 Smiles for Kids program. GCHC also received an additional \$500 contribution from Delta Dental of North Carolina.

GCHC will use the money for dental education material on a new mobile dental van. GCHC offers dental care to both children and farmworkers with the van. GCHC provides care in school systems in Greene and Pitt counties as part of the Greene Access Program (GAP) and to farmworkers through Farmworker Services.

“Mobile services have long been an important part of our efforts to increase access to care for our community,” says CEO Doug Smith. “Part of our responsibility as a community health center is to provide education as well. The equipment and educational videos we’ll purchase with the Delta Dental Foundation and Delta Dental of North Carolina funds will make learning fun for these children.”

“We use this van as part of our oral health program,” says April Wiggins, GAP coordinator. “We visit schools in Greene and Pitt counties and provide dental care on-site to those children. We provide care to the most vulnerable children in Greene and Pitt counties.”

“Children sometimes have to wait briefly before having their teeth cleaned,” she says. “That’s a perfect opportunity for us to educate them about dental health. This grant from Delta Dental Foundation and funds from Delta Dental of North Carolina will allow us to buy the equipment and educational material we need to do that.”

The Delta Dental Foundation focuses on ensuring children and adults in North Carolina receive premiere oral health education and high-quality dental care. The grant received by Greene County Health Care is one of 21 grants totaling \$45,000 awarded in 2016 to North Carolina oral health organizations and programs. Grant recipients were selected based on criteria that included the number of at-risk children served, the uniqueness of the program, the level of community involvement and the ability to measure results.

“We are pleased that the Delta Dental Foundation and Delta Dental of North Carolina are providing funding to Greene County Health Care,” said Curtis Ladig, president and CEO of Delta Dental of North Carolina. “Children miss 51 million hours of school every year because of oral health related issues, and tooth decay is the most common, chronic childhood disease today. Supporting the work of Greene County Health Care can help ensure that more children are educated about the importance of good oral health and receive the care they need to grow up healthy and be successful in school and in life.”

About Greene County Health Care Inc. (GCHC)

Greene County Health Care Inc. (GCHC) has six community health center sites in Greene, Pitt and Pamlico counties. GCHC has a freestanding dental services center in Greene County, as well as offering dental services through James D. Bernstein Community Health Center in Pitt County and Pamlico Community Health Center in Pamlico County. For more information about GCHC, visit greencountyhealthcare.com.



Delta Dental President/CEO Curtis Ladig, right, presented Greene County Health Care CEO Doug Smith, center, and staff with two \$500 checks at Greene Lamp's Head Start Program in Snow Hill. Greene County Health Care will use the two \$500 checks from Delta Dental Foundation and Delta Dental of North Carolina to buy equipment and dental education material for children. Also on hand at the presentation were, from left, Greene Access Program (GAP) Coordinator April Wiggins, GCHC Dental Director Rob Doherty, GAP Assistant Andrea Snead and Kristen Martin, dental assistant.

About the Delta Dental Foundation

The Delta Dental Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization established in 1980, which serves as the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and North Carolina. The foundation's goals are to support education and research for the advancement of dental science, and to promote the oral health of the public through education and service activities, particularly for those with special needs. For more information, visit www.deltadentalnc.com.