



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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**Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation Awards more than \$1 Million
In Strengthening & Building the Capacity of Oral Health Systems Grants**

Oak Brook, IL (Tuesday, September 29, 2009) - The Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation announced today its investment of more than \$1 million to 19 programs throughout the State of Illinois designed to reduce barriers preventing children from receiving optimal levels of oral health care.

These grants marked the third year of investments as part of ILCHF's \$20 million, five-year Oral Health Initiative aimed at improving the health of vulnerable Illinois children by expanding their access to oral health care services. Over the past three years, ILCHF has invested \$12,847,218 in targeted efforts designed to build the capacity of the safety-net-system throughout the state to deliver high-quality oral health services; increase the number of oral health professionals caring for underserved children; and create a greater awareness of the role oral health plays in the overall health and well-being of a child. Funding in 2009 will assist our previous and present grantees in reducing the barriers which prevent children in their community from receiving optimal levels of oral healthcare, including public education/awareness, internal efficiency, access and specialty care.

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About Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation

Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF) is the only statewide private foundation focused on improving the health of all children in the State of Illinois

ILCHF was created in December 2002 through an action of the State of Illinois Attorney General's office. This activity established the Foundation which was funded with an investment of approximately \$125 million as a result of a settlement with a group of Illinois insurance carriers.

In 2007, ILCHF announced its first major initiative in the area of oral health. More than \$20 million is committed over five years on efforts related to building the capacity of the safety net system, workforce development and public education and awareness. In September, 2009, ILCHF launched its Children's Mental Health Initiative, *Building Systems of Care, Community by Community*.

From the Foundation's inception through 2008, a total of more than \$35 million in grants has been invested in over 200 programs.

For additional information about ILCHF, please see www.ilchf.org.

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**ILLINOIS CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION
ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE INVESTMENTS
SEPTEMBER, 2009**

Agency/Organization (alphabetical order)	Program	Barrier Addressed	Amount
Alivio Medical Center	Oral Health in High Schools Expansion Program	Education/Awareness	\$53,182
Bond County Health Department	Dental Health Education	Education/Awareness	\$14,995
Christopher Greater Rural Health Planning Corp	REA Dental Clinic Upgrade	Access	\$75,000
Community Health Partnership of Illinois	Healthy Smiles for Life/Sonrisas Sanas para Toda La Vida	Education/Awareness	\$71,235
Douglas County Health Department	Education of Young Children and Their Parents	Education/Awareness	\$20,200
Erie Family Health Center	Orthodontics: A Continuum of Oral Health Care	Specialty Care	\$66,750
Greater Elgin Family Care Center	Adding Specialty Care & Enhancing Transportation Services for Children's Dental Clinic	Specialty Care	\$51,000
Hancock County Health Department	Better Oral Health through Access to Transportation	Access	\$25,000
Heartland International Health Center	Oral Health Outreach and Sustainability Program	Education/Awareness	\$71,052
Knox County Health Department	Dental Clinic Access Expansion Project	Access	\$75,000
McHenry County Health Department	Oral Health Care Case Management Services	Access	\$75,000
St. Bernard Hospital	Dental Center Evaluation	Internal Efficiency	\$40,000
Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center	SBL Dental Services	Education/Awareness	\$75,000
Smile Healthy, Inc.	Family Oral Health Investment	Education/Awareness	\$59,600
Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation	Hospital Dentistry Program	Access	\$39,195
Southern Illinois University, School of Medicine, Department of Family & Community Medicine	Strengthening the Capacity of A Rural Dental-Behavioral Health for Underserved Children	Access	\$75,000
The Children's Clinic Sponsored by Oak Park River Forest Infant Welfare Society	Strengthening the Service Delivery Model – Does a FQHC Make Sense for Oral Health Growth	Internal Efficiency	\$50,000
Well Child Center	Increasing Oral Health Capacity through Digital Radiology and Electronic Patient Records	Internal Efficiency	\$62,423
Clay County Health Department	Oral Health Needs Assessment & Planning Process	Building Capacity	\$50,000
	Totals		\$1,049,632