



**NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH
TO BE CELEBRATED IN CENTRAL TEXAS**

St. David's Foundation and Capital Area Dental Foundation educate students on the importance of oral hygiene throughout the month of February

In celebration of **National Children's Dental Health Month**, St. David's Foundation is partnering with the Capital Area Dental Society (CADS) and Capital Area Dental Foundation (CADF) to launch a community-wide oral health education event throughout the month of February, known as "Dentists on Campus."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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WHO: St. David's Foundation
Capital Area Dental Society and Capital Area Dental Foundation

WHAT: The education series will launch on **Friday, February 5** on **National Give Kids a Smile Day** at Perez Elementary School.

Throughout the month, 28 local dentists and dental hygienists will volunteer their time to visit over 20 area schools. During their school visits, they will be teaching oral health education classes to third graders in select Title I schools. Students will learn about effective brushing techniques, overall healthy dental habits, and will receive complimentary toothbrushes, toothpaste and dental floss. Dentists will also be able to answer questions from students about dental care.

"Oral hygiene is vital in maintaining overall health," said Dr. Wayne Radwanski, former CADS president. "We are hopeful this program will help Austin students to develop good dental habits at an early age to prevent serious problems in the future."

"We are delighted to join with the Capital Area Dental Foundation in celebrating National Children's Dental Health Month with this collaborative educational effort. Along with our Mobile Dental program which operates year-round, this is an effective way to reach students and their families with vital information regarding dental health," said Bobbie Barker, Vice President for grants and community programs, St. David's Foundation.

According to the Pew Center on the States' Pew Children's Dental Campaign of October 2009, tooth decay is the most common childhood disease, affecting nearly

60 percent of children. Poor dental health disproportionately affects disadvantaged children: 80 percent of pediatric dental disease is concentrated in 25 percent of kids, primarily those from low-income and minority households.

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St. David's Dental Program provides oral health education at Title I elementary schools during the school year, and through health fairs and parent classes. In 2009, St. David's two full-time Oral Health Educators provided classroom based oral health instruction to over 28,000 children and parents.

WHEN: The education series will begin February 5, 2010 and will run through February 28, 2010.

MEDIA: Media access at Perez Elementary School will be from 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on February 5, 2010. Please contact us prior to the event to make arrangements to cover the session.

WHERE: Perez Elementary School is located at 7500 S. Pleasant Valley Rd., Austin, TX 78744.

ABOUT ST. DAVID'S FOUNDATION:

The vision of St. David's Foundation is to keep the promise of a better life by improving health and health care for all Central Texans. The Foundation's mission is to work with commitment, integrity, and respect to achieve our vision in our hospitals, programs, and community partnerships. In 2010, the Foundation will invest \$27 million in the community through grants to mental health agencies, agencies serving the elderly, ill and homeless, and many of the area's private safety net clinics, and the St. David's Dental Program. For more information on St. David's Foundation, visit www.stdavidsfoundation.org.

ABOUT CAPITAL AREA DENTAL SOCIETY:

The Capital Area Dental Society was founded in 1924 with the goal of uniting dentists of the Greater Austin area encompassing five counties for the advancement of the profession and for coordinated service to the community. The Capital Area Dental Society (CADS) is the local component of a tri-partite organization consisting of The Texas Dental Association and The American Dental Association. For more information on CADS, visit www.capitalareadental.org.

ABOUT CAPITAL AREA DENTAL FOUNDATION:

The Capital Area Dental Foundation was formed in 2007 to address the charitable goals of the Capital Area Dental Society. The Foundation uses funds to support dental charities for the economically disadvantaged for access to dental care services, provide educational scholarships for dental and dental hygiene schools, and fund oral health research to corporate and academic institutions, among others. For more information on Capital Area Dental Foundation, visit www.capitalareadentalfoundation.org.