



Give Kids A Smile Story

FROM 400 KIDS TO MORE THAN 9.5 MILLION

The Give Kids A Smile® (GKAS) program, launched nationally in 2003, provides underserved children with free oral health care. Each year approximately 5,000 dentists and 20,000 dental team members volunteer at local GKAS events to provide free oral health education, screenings, and preventive and restorative treatment to over 300,000 children.

The national kickoff of GKAS takes place annually on the first Friday of February. GKAS events are held throughout the year, across the U.S.

To date, over 9.5 million underserved children have received free oral health services through the GKAS program.



Vision

To ensure access to quality oral healthcare for ALL children.

Photo: GKAS 2025, National Kickoff Host, Meharry Medical College, School of Dentistry

Why Give Kids A Smile?

According to the Center for Disease Control, cavities are the most common chronic disease of childhood in the United States. Untreated cavities can cause pain and infections that may lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing, and learning. Children who have poor oral health often miss more school and receive lower grades than children who don't.



Photo: GKAS 2025, National Kickoff Host, Meharry Medical College, School of Dentistry

More than half of children aged 6 to 8 have had a cavity in at least one of their baby (primary) teeth.¹

More than half of adolescents aged 12 to 19 have had a cavity in at least one of their permanent teeth.¹

Children aged 5 to 19 years from low-income families are twice as likely (25%) to have cavities, compared with children from higher-income households (11%).²

¹ Source: www.cdc.gov/oral-health/prevention/oral-health-tips-for-children.html

² Source: www.cdc.gov/oral-health/about/cavities-tooth-decay.html

That's why the objectives of Give Kids A Smile are so important:

1. To provide care for, and find dental homes for, as many underserved children as possible, because every American deserves access to oral health care.
2. To raise awareness among the public and policymakers that access to dental care is a serious problem for many in the country, and no amount of charity care can solve the problem.

Volunteers

THE HEART AND SOUL OF GKAS

For the past 23 years, thousands of dentists, dental students and dental team volunteers have given their time to provide free oral health education, screenings, and treatment in their local communities. This is the essence of the ADA Foundation's Give Kids A Smile program—helping to ensure that every child has a healthy smile. Achieving this goal could not be possible without the commitment of our diligent GKAS program coordinators and volunteers. Thank you!

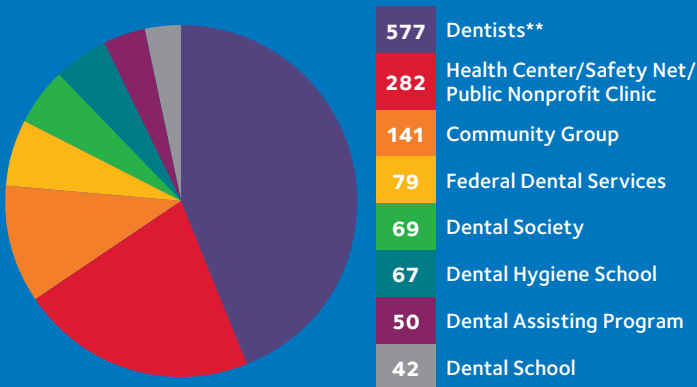


Photo above: GKAS 2024, Howard University College of Dentistry



Photo left: GKAS 2025, Touro College of Dental Medicine

Number of GKAS Events by Participant Type* in 2024



* Participant type as selected in GKAS enrollment system

** Includes individual dentist, multi-dentist practice/clinic & corporate dental practice



TINY SMILES
A Give Kids A Smile Program

Tiny Smiles, an ADA Foundation Give Kids A Smile program, provides free resources to help raise awareness about the oral health needs of children ages 0 (birth) to 5. The main objective is to increase the number of dentists comfortable with and willing to provide oral health services to children by age 1.

For more information, visit
ADAFoundation.org/TinySmiles.

Join the GKAS Movement

Are you interested in volunteering or hosting your own GKAS event? To learn how you can participate, email GKAS@ada.org.

To support the national Give Kids A Smile or Tiny Smiles programs, you can

donate to the ADA Foundation by scanning the QR code on the right, or visit ADAFoundation.org.



Thank you to our generous corporate supporters

From donating oral health products to providing funding support and beyond. Give Kids A Smile would not be possible without their generosity.

Visit ADAFoundation.org/GKAS for more information and a list of our supporters.