ADA’s Give Kids A Smile three-day screening program helps kids in San Francisco

More than 2,000 San Francisco children benefitted from three days of free oral-health screenings, education and treatment at two schools and a hospital earlier this week.

About 150 dentists, hygienists, dental students, dental staffs and other volunteers participated in the Give Kids A Smile program to help underserved children receive needed oral-health education and services.

The American Dental Association (ADA) collaborated with the San Francisco Dental Society, the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Colgate’s Bright Smiles Bright Futures and the National Children’s Oral Health Foundation for the local events.

“The San Francisco Dental Society has a long history of partnering with the San Francisco Department of Public Health and San Francisco Unified School District to provide oral health services and education to San Francisco’s children,” said Dr. Courtney Fitzpatrick, president, San Francisco Dental Society. “We are delighted to expand this year’s efforts as part of the ADA’s GKAS program.”

Program activities were held at Gordon J. Lau Elementary School, E.R. Taylor Elementary School and San Francisco General Hospital.

All children took home backpacks of donated materials, including a toothbrush and toothpaste from Colgate’s Bright Smiles Bright Futures program as well as a Sesame Street’s Healthy Teeth, Healthy Me outreach kit.

“More than 16 million children have untreated tooth decay, which gets worse over time, resulting in persistent pain, infection and embarrassment,” said ADA President Dr. William R. Calnon. “Give Kids A Smile is the ADA’s signature oral health access program designed to encourage parents, health professionals and policymakers to address the year-round need for oral health care for all children.”

Celebrating its 10th year, the ADA’s National Give Kids A Smile volunteers provide free oral health care services to more than 400,000 underserved children across the country each year.

2,000 smiling children and counting

Meet the future

Hundreds of continuing education courses and more than 600 exhibiting companies are waiting for you

The American Dental Association’s 153rd Annual Session and World Marketplace Exhibition may just be getting started, but already there is a lot happening.

First thing this morning, political pundits Robert Reich and George F. Will will take the stage as part of the 2012 Distinguished Speakers series. Reich is one of the world’s leading thinkers about work and the economy. Now professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley, he has served under three national administrations, most recently as secretary of labor under Bill Clinton. He also served on President Barack Obama’s economic transition board.

Will is one of the country’s most widely read political columnists, as well as a foremost conservative voice. His twice-weekly column for The Washington Post

The North and South Moscone Center at night. Photo/Provided by The Moscone Center
Here at the ADA
For more information on any part of the ADA Annual Session, download the mobile app by searching for "ADA Annual Session 2012" in the app store.

Attendees can also choose from unique learning opportunities, such as six live-patient courses in the "Education in the Round" learning format and a variety of high-tech courses in the ADA C.E. Hub featuring dental lasers, CAD/CAM systems, 3-D imaging systems and more.

Options for new dentists
If you graduated from dental school less than 10 years ago, there are a number of offerings you might find of interest, including a "New Dentist Track." Courses include "The Psychology of Pediatric Dentistry," "Diagnosis-Based Pain and Infection Management," "Full-Arch Implant Restorations," "The Top 20 Game Changers of 2012," "Advanced Social Media Marketing Strategies," "Dental Implant Restorative Workshop," "New Dentist Fast Track" and "Perinatal Oral Health and Dental Practice."

There will also be a New Dentist Reception on Friday night from 5:30–7 at ROE Restaurant, just a half-block from Moscone Center. Tickets are $15 and include light fare and two beverage tickets.

Exhibit hall
The World Marketplace Exhibition will feature more than 600 leading suppliers of dental products and services. It is open each day from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. In addition to checking out the booths, you can also enjoy a New Orleans-themed reception on Saturday from 4–5:30 p.m., enter to win contests and drawings and visit the Product Showcase.

(Source: American Dental Association)