On Saturday, the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) and the AGD Foundation will partner with the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine to hold its third annual community outreach project, “Nation of Smiles, One Smile at a Time.”

Already, hundreds of volunteer dentists, hygienists, dental assistants and University of Pennsylvania dental students and faculty anticipate providing free dental care to more than 500 Philadelphia residents. Patients have been pre-selected from a variety of local shelters, clinics and charities.

“For the past three years, we have offered an outreach project to coincide with the location of our annual meeting in order to give back to the community,” says AGD President Howard Gamble, DMD, FAGD.

“It is an honor for our association to serve residents of Philadelphia by providing the oral care that these individuals so desperately need. AGD volunteers are committed to ensuring that these patients receive the high level of care that is consistent with AGD members’ commitment to oral and overall health.”

Notable guests from the community, including Councilwoman Jannie Blackwell, have committed to attend the AGD outreach project in order to show their support for this effort.

“Penn Dental Medicine plays a vital role in the delivery of oral health care at reduced costs to the West Philadelphia community. Unfortunately, our capacity to deliver this care is limited, and many of our neighbors do not have the resources necessary or any access to oral health care,” says Heywood Kotch, DMD, MAGD, assistant dean of clinical operations at Penn Dental Medicine.

“This day of outreach will allow Penn to join forces with the AGD to highlight this dire need and to provide free care to a portion of our most needy neighbors.”

The event will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine at 240 5th St. in Philadelphia.
from dental manufacturers, suppliers, labs and service providers.

- "Social Media for Dentists," 8–8:30 a.m. today. Jason Lipscomb, DDS, author of "Social Media for Dentists," will set it straight with a little perspective and advice on how to grow your practice by implementing a few simple social media strategies.

- "Generation Talk," 8–8:30 a.m., Friday. Do you ever look at people of a different generation and ask yourself why they think and act the way they do? Join inter-generation and ask yourself why they implement a few simple social media strategies.

- "Networking Reception," 5–6 p.m. Friday. Enjoy a complimentary beer or glass of wine while showcasing your support to the AGD exhibitors who support your profession. Full registered attendees will receive a drink ticket in their registration packet.

- "Advanced Cardiovascular Disease in Dental Patients — The Art of Understanding the Heart" with Harold V. Cohen, DDS, 9 a.m.–noon Friday. Medical care is continually providing patients with new cardiac treatments that will improve their quality of life and extend their lifespan. This increasing population of patients will be seen in the dental office, mandating that a dentist possess an up-to-date understanding of the treatments and medications for cardiovascular disease, as well as a patient’s cardiac status and ability to undergo dental procedures.

- "The Successful Management of Tooth Trauma in Young Children: If it’s Broke … Fix It!" with Marvin H. Berman, DDS, and Kirk B. Kollmann, DMD, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Friday. The frequent occurrence of dental trauma in young patients demands the attention of general practitioners as well as pediatric specialists. The emergency nature of these accidents involves a working knowledge of pulp dynamics in maturing teeth, soft-tissue injuries, the broad spectrum of tooth-fracture patterns, the ramifications of tooth luxation and avulsion plus the challenges of managing child behavior.

- "BOTOX and Dermal Fillers for Every Dental Practice: A Two-Day Course" with Louis J. Malcmacher, DDS, MAGD, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday. This seminar will teach dentists the background, development, types and use of botulinum toxin and dermal fillers as well as how to easily integrate these therapies into their dental practice. Attendees will participate in a hands-on practice session to become proficient in these techniques.

For more information on courses offered, pick up the official AGD guide.