

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Delta Dental Foundation Awards \$3,000 Smiles for Kids Grant to Randolph County Health Department to Purchase New Ultrasonic Scaler

**Asheboro, NC (April 1, 2019)** The Randolph County Health Department received a \$3,000 Smiles for Kids grant from the <u>Delta Dental Foundation</u> (DDF) to purchase a new ultrasonic scaler to help treat more serious cases of gingivitis. Teenage patients often come into the dental clinic after years of going without dental care. If they are suffering from gingivitis and calculus buildup, this ultrasonic scaler makes the necessary treatment quicker and easier.

The Randolph County Health Department Dental Clinic does not turn away any patient due to inability to pay. If an uninsured patient cannot pay the amount due on the day of treatment, a monthly payment plan will be set up at an amount the patient or guardian feels they can afford. Due to this philosophy, the clinic struggles to make larger purchases, such as replacing expensive equipment, on its own.

"We are very grateful to the Delta Dental Foundation for their support in purchasing this new ultrasonic scaler for our dental clinic. This funding will allow the clinic to improve quality of treatment for those in need while decreasing patient chair time and thus reducing our clinic costs so that we can help more of our underserved population," said Dental Director of Randolph County Health Department Elyse Hayes (DDS).

The Delta Dental Foundation focuses on ensuring that children and adults in North Carolina receive high-quality oral health education and dental care. The grant received by the Randolph County Health Department is one of 19 grants totaling \$70,000 that DDF is donating to North Carolina oral health organizations and programs. This is the first year that the Randolph County Health Department has been awarded a Smiles for Kids grant. Grant recipients were selected based on criteria that included the number of at-risk children served, the uniqueness of the program, the level of community involvement in the program and the ability to measure results.

"The Delta Dental Foundation is committed to promoting good oral health habits and providing better access to quality dental care for those who are underserved in our state," said Curt Ladig, president and CEO of Delta Dental of North Carolina. "By increasing access to quality dental care, we can help improve the oral and overall health and well-being of children and teens by preventing serious health issues down the road."

## **About Randolph County Health Department Dental Clinic**

The Randolph County Health Department's Dental Clinic provides comprehensive dental treatment for preschool and school-aged children of qualifying families. To qualify, the patient must be a resident of Randolph County between ages 0-18. The clinic also provides dental screenings, fluoride rinses, and dental education programs in Randolph County schools. For more information, visit www.randolphcountync.gov.

#### About the Delta Dental Foundation

The Delta Dental Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization established in 1980, which serves as the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina. The foundation's goals are to support education and research for the advancement of dental science, and to promote the oral health of the public through education and service activities, particularly for those with special needs. For more information, visit <a href="https://www.deltadentalnc.com">www.deltadentalnc.com</a>.

#### About Delta Dental of North Carolina

Delta Dental of North Carolina is a nonprofit dental service corporation created in 1970 to provide dental benefits throughout the state. Its mission is to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. It does so by providing affordable access to oral health care with the largest network of providers, including two out of every three dentists, in North Carolina.

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