

# THE Cavity-Free PRESS

Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation Newsletter



## HELP US RAISE \$20,000 FOR KIDS' SMILES

Thanks to the **Arizona Working Poor Tax Credit**, cash donations to the Foundation are entitled to a dollar-for-dollar state tax credit of up to \$200 for an individual and \$400 for a married couple filing their joint return. This means you can help support healthy smiles at NO COST to you!

The best part? Every penny of your donation is used to fund oral health programming for children and youth across the state. Your donation is also federally deductible, so you may actually save on our federal taxes too.

Make your donation online via check or credit card at [www.deltadentalaz.com/foundation/donate.asp](http://www.deltadentalaz.com/foundation/donate.asp) or mail your donation to the Delta Dental of Arizona Foundation at 5656 W. Talavi Blvd., Glendale, AZ 85306. **Donations must be postmarked or made online by December 31, 2012.**

For more information, contact the Foundation at 602.588.3923.

## PHOENIX FLUORIDE FACTS



- 💧 Phoenix has been fluoridating water to levels recommended for optimal health since 1990.
- 💧 Phoenix spends about \$582,000, or 39¢ per resident, on fluoridating the city's water supply.
- 💧 **\$1 INVESTED** in water fluoridation = **\$38 SAVINGS** in dental treatment costs. (That's \$22 million in savings in Phoenix!)

## PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNITY RALLIES TO SUPPORT WATER FLUORIDATION

Community water fluoridation became a hot topic in Phoenix over the fall as anti-fluoride activists rallied the Phoenix City Council to stop the practice. Delta Dental of Arizona, the Foundation, MOLAR and dozens of other local organizations came out in strong support of continuing fluoridating city water for its obvious oral health benefits.



*Dental hygiene students at Phoenix College support MOLAR at the Fluoride Debate on September 5, 2012.*

Dr. Sara Bode, a pediatrician with Phoenix Children's Hospital, told the City Council that fluoridation is especially important for low-income families that don't have access to regular dental treatment.

"To assume that by taking fluoride out of the water we can replace that with early, often, adequate dental care to use top, expensive, topical fluoride treatments, it's not a realistic goal and we don't see that in the population of our kids in Phoenix," she said.

In September, several DDAZ and Foundation staff attended the Phoenix City Council subcommittee hearing on this topic. It was well attended and there was a spirited debate. We're pleased to report that the combined efforts of private and public health entities paid off: The Phoenix City Council subcommittee agreed to continue fluoridating the drinking water.



## NOW ACCEPTING BIRDIES FOR CHARITY PLEDGES

Be part of the golf action at the Waste Management Phoenix Open in February and support children's oral health programming! Each year, the Foundation raises funds through the Thunderbirds Charities' Birdies for Charity program with the help of donors like you.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS: Donors can pledge a specified amount for each birdie shot during the Open. With an average of about 1,500 birdies made during past Tournaments, if you pledge just ONE PENNY for every birdie made at the Open, your donation would total \$15. Two cents pledged = \$30. As an added bonus, Thunderbirds Charities matches (gives us) 10% above and beyond the total amount of pledges we collect.

**PLEDGE TODAY!**  
Call 602.588.3923 or visit [www.deltadentalaz.com/foundation](http://www.deltadentalaz.com/foundation).

## FOUNDATION BOARD MEMBER HAS LONG HISTORY IN ORAL HEALTH - KATHY LAVOY

In December 2009, more than 25 individuals banded together to develop a county-wide oral health coalition: Maricopa County Oral Health Leaders, Advocates and Resources (fondly known by its acronym, MOLAR). It was through this endeavor that Foundation staff first had the pleasure of working with Kathy LaVoy, a clinical dental hygienist, dental hygiene educator, entrepreneur and lifelong learner.



At the time of her introduction to MOLAR, Kathy was teaching public health courses as an adjunct faculty member at Phoenix College and working as a dental hygienist in a private practice. Because her work in the oral health community over 38 years mirrored the mission and vision of MOLAR—to provide greater access to oral health for everyone in Maricopa County—she became chair of the organization's Children's Work Group. Kathy became a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors in 2011 and is the first hygienist to serve on the Board. She also remains involved and committed to MOLAR's mission.



Kathy left private practice last year to pursue her career as an educator, which she feels re-ignites her excitement for the oral health field. Currently, Kathy teaches courses at the Rio Salado College of Dental Hygiene, Phoenix College School of Hygiene, and A.T. Still University's Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health.

If that isn't enough, Kathy is also co-owner and CFO of Dental Coaches, a company that provides web-based transitional support from dental hygiene school to dental hygiene practice.

Kathy's work as a hygienist, educator, and her diverse long-time efforts in public health bring new insights to what she calls a "dynamic group" of board and staff members at the Foundation. When asked how she feels



about serving on the Community Grants Committee, she said, "I feel like Oprah! We make such a huge difference!"

*Kathy with her Give Kids a Smile volunteers at Rio Salado College*

## GRAND SLAM THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

On August 26, the Foundation hosted a day at the ballpark to give a grand-slam-sized thanks to the volunteers who generously donate their time and talents to our fundraising events. The Arizona Diamondbacks donated the Legend Suite at the stadium, where 150 volunteers and their families enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers, beverages and desserts while watching the D-backs take on the Padres.

Prior to the game, guests enjoyed the "Sunday Slugger Show," which featured the No Chew Crew, a tobacco prevention program for children hosted by DDAZ to increase awareness about the dangers of tobacco use. The show was hosted by local celebrities and in-game hosts Vanessa and Mike, along with organist Bobby Freeman. Throughout the show, Baxter delivered oral health messages and the hosts showcased an interview with a player and engaged the audience in trivia games about dental hygiene.

DDAZ and Foundation Board members also attended the volunteer appreciation event, along with senior leadership. However, the most popular guest to the suite was Baxter, who posed for photographs and autographed free commemorative baseballs for our volunteers' children.



*No Chew Crew members learn the importance of brushing twice a day for two minutes*

## GRANTEE SPOTLIGHT: MAGGIE'S PLACE

Founded in 2000 by Mary Peterson and four other recent college graduates, Maggie's Place provides expectant mothers who are alone or on the streets with food, clothing, community and a safe environment to live while they develop the skills they need to live independently. During their stay, mothers are connected to agencies and resources like prenatal care, health insurance, low-cost housing and educational programs.

One such resource is offered through a collaborative partnership between Maggie's Place and the Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS) Dental Clinic and funded by a \$5,000 grant from the Foundation. The partnership allows Maggie's Place guests to receive often long-overdue dental services, including preventive and critical emergency dental care.

In addition, the partnership aims to

educate expectant mothers about the importance of good oral hygiene for themselves and their children. By establishing a proper routine of care, beginning with a dental cleaning and



evaluation, and instilling good oral health habits throughout their stay, the women at Maggie's Place benefit from:

- Improved preventive care through regular brushing and flossing
- A healthier overall pregnancy
- Increased capacity to teach healthy dental habits to their children

The Foundation is proud to support the partnership between Maggie's Place and CASS, as the implications of the program are far-reaching, encompassing the mother's health and dignity and extending to the health of her child.

For more information on Maggie's Place, visit [www.maggiesplace.org](http://www.maggiesplace.org) or call 602.262.5555.

*Mothers receive education to develop healthy habits for a lifetime*

DELTA DENTAL OF ARIZONA  
**FOUNDATION**

*Giving people a reason to smile* 

5656 W. Talavi Blvd.  
Glendale, AZ 85306



**REGISTER NOW!**

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Delta Dental of AZ Foundation

**GOLF4SMILES TOURNAMENT**

Friday, May 10, 2013

For complete information and to register,  
visit [www.Golf4Smiles.org](http://www.Golf4Smiles.org) or call 602.588.3922.

[DELTA DENTAL AZ.COM/FOUNDATION](http://DELTA DENTAL AZ.COM/FOUNDATION)