NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation accepting applications for $100,000 Wisdom Tooth Award
Eligible organizations encouraged to apply by Oct. 1

NAPERVILLE, Ill. (Aug. 26, 2013) – The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation, the 501(c)3 philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Illinois, is accepting applications for its new Wisdom Tooth Award. The $100,000 annual award will recognize one Illinois nonprofit organization that has made a significant impact on improving Illinois children's oral health with a proven program that provides oral health education and/or access to oral health resources and care.

"The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation is looking forward to honoring an organization that makes a real difference in the well-being of Illinois' youngest residents, and also help the organization expand its efforts to make an even more significant impact," said Frank Maggio, DDS, chair of the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Board of Directors. "We know education and access are key to helping children have good oral health. The Wisdom Tooth Award along with our community grants program, which will award up to $100,000 in smaller grants, underscores the Foundation's commitment to improving oral health in the state."

The $100,000 Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Wisdom Tooth Award was created to annually pay tribute to an organization that has worked to significantly improve the oral health of Illinois children. This signature grant is designed to help expand or enhance an existing children's oral health program in Illinois.

Applications will be accepted starting Sept. 3, 2013, and can be submitted until 5 p.m. on Oct. 1, 2013. The Wisdom Tooth Award recipient will be announced in January 2014. The organization that receives the award has up to two years to use the grant money.

Applicants will be evaluated on five criteria:

- Alignment with the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation mission, vision and program areas.
- Program stability, longevity and success.
- Financial and operational stability.
- Positive or improved outcomes.

- Public awareness. (The public will vote for the winning organization through a Delta Dental of Illinois Facebook campaign. The Facebook voting will be used as one measure in the evaluation of the Wisdom Tooth Award recipient; the voting will not be the only factor in determining the recipient.)

Criteria and an online application are available at http://deltadentalil.com/ddilfoundation/what-we-do/wisdom-tooth-award. Illinois public charities that are classified as exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and public or governmental entities, such as public schools or health departments, are eligible and encouraged to apply.

To learn more about the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation's programs or to support the Foundation, please visit deltadentalil.com/ddilfoundation.

About Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation (DDILF), a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, was formed in March 2008 by Delta Dental of Illinois (DDIL), a not-for-profit dental service corporation with a mission to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. DDILF is the charitable arm of DDIL and works to support and improve the oral health of people in Illinois. In the past decade, combined efforts of DDIL and DDILF have provided more than $2 million to programs and organizations that provide oral health education and expand access to oral health care for Illinois residents.

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