



Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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**Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation awards \$100,000 Wisdom Tooth Award to
Central Counties Health Centers, Inc.**

Grant to help improve oral health of at-risk children in central Illinois

NAPERVILLE, Ill. (July 13, 2015) – The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation, the 501(c)(3) charitable arm of Delta Dental of Illinois, granted its third annual \$100,000 Wisdom Tooth Award to Central Counties Health Centers, Inc. (CCHC) to help improve the oral health of at-risk children in central Illinois.

Located in Springfield, Ill., CCHC provides quality, affordable health and oral health care to Springfield residents and those in surrounding counties who lack health or dental insurance or do not have adequate coverage. The Wisdom Tooth Award is granted to an organization that significantly improves the oral health of Illinois children, and CCHC was selected from 17 applicants. CCHC will use the Wisdom Tooth Award to help fund its “Check Up Pick Up” Dental Transportation Program and expand its dental services to provide comprehensive care to more children.

“We are pleased to present the 2015 Wisdom Tooth Award to such a deserving organization,” said Bernie Glossy, president of the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Board of Directors and CEO of Delta Dental of Illinois. “Central Counties Health Centers has made a significant impact in the overall health of countless Illinois children. We are proud to support its good work and assist in its efforts to provide oral health care to Illinois children.”

In serving the needs of central Illinois, CCHC discovered that not having access to reliable and easily accessible transportation is a significant barrier to patients receiving dental care. In many instances, parents are unable to bring their children to the health center for a checkup as a result of not having access to transportation. CCHC’s “Check Up Pick Up” Dental Transportation Program will provide groups of children with transportation to and from the dental clinic. This program will allow 250 additional children to gain access to comprehensive oral health care over a two-year period.

“As a result of the Wisdom Tooth Award, we will be able to expand our services and ensure that more children receive the dental care they need,” said Heather Burton, Central Counties Health Centers president and CEO. “Our goal is to eliminate any obstacle that may prevent a child from receiving dental care. Through our ‘Check Up Pick Up’ program, we can eliminate the key obstacle of the lack of reliable

and easily accessible transportation. We are truly grateful to the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation for its support.”

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation’s \$100,000 annual Wisdom Tooth Award recognizes one Illinois nonprofit organization that has made a significant impact on improving Illinois children’s oral health. This signature grant is designed to help expand or enhance a new or existing children’s oral health program in Illinois.

The Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation will recognize the Central Counties Health Centers at a reception in Springfield on September 24.

For more information about the Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation Wisdom Tooth Award or to support the Foundation, please visit deltadentalil.com/ddilfoundation.

About Delta Dental of Illinois Foundation

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

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