



Mercy Medical Center

## **News from Mercy Medical Center**

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**For Immediate Release**  
**August 23, 2017**

### **Mercy Foundation Receives \$5,000.00 from C. Giles Hunt Charitable Trust and \$3,000.00 from Juan Young Trust for Healthy Kids Outreach Program Rural Dental Initiative**

(Roseburg, OR) The Mercy Foundation's Healthy Kids Outreach Program (HKOP) was recently awarded two generous grants in support of continued dental hygiene and education for students in Douglas County. The C. Giles Hunt Charitable Trust donated \$5,000 and \$3,000 was given by the Juan Young Trust.

"The Mercy Foundation is very grateful for the continued support of HKOP by both the C. Giles Hunt Charitable Trust and the Juan Young Trust. These grants will enhance dental outreach services for Douglas County children," states Mercy Foundation president Lisa Platt.

HKOP was established by Mercy Foundation to help improve the health and wellbeing of children throughout Douglas County. One program focuses on improving dental health by providing dental assessments and preventative treatments, dental hygiene education and connections to care at schools throughout the county.

School site clinics are staffed by hygienists, and provide full screenings, including fluoride varnish and sealants to untreated, erupted molars. Each student receives an oral hygiene kit that includes toothbrushes, tooth paste, floss, tooth timers, and a report card. If a child has an urgent dental need, the foundation helps their families get connected for an appointment with one the 16 local participating dentists.

Some of the children seen at the clinics have never owned a toothbrush or been to a dentist.

The HKOP dental team also focuses on helping students understand the "how" and "why" of dental care through an interactive Dental Learning Lab, where children engage in age-appropriate, hands-on activities. The program also teaches a variety of hygiene skills and education about unhealthy behaviors that not only impact good dental care, but overall nutrition and physical health. The foundation's Learning Labs provide a

virtual dental visit where children can ask questions so they have a better understanding of what to expect when they have their teeth screened. The lab interactions also help to alleviate the fear and stress of seeing a dental provider.

“By providing dental health education we are helping children throughout Douglas County have great oral health, and apply what they learn at school to build the habits they need for a lifetime of great health,” says Platt. “We could not do this important work without support of funders like the C. Giles Hunt Charitable Trust and the Juan Young Trust and we are appreciative!”

For additional information, please call Mercy Foundation at 541-677-4818.