



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 24, 2005

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MEDIA ADVISORY

FREE DENTAL CLINIC FOR SOUTH REGION CHILDREN WITHOUT INSURANCE

Dental Sealants and Fluoride to be Provided Free of Cost to Children Without Dental Coverage

WHO: Greg Cox, District 1, San Diego County Board of Supervisors
Rene Santiago, Deputy Director, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency
Christine Perri, RDH, MA, Director, Southwestern College Dental Hygiene Clinic
Rick Bialick, DDS, Children's Dental Health Month Chairman, San Diego County Dental Society

350 children receiving dental sealants or fluoride varnish
60 volunteers, including dentists and hygienists

WHAT: Volunteer dental professionals will apply sealants and fluoride varnish to children's teeth, while community organizations entertain and educate children and parents about dental health.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (10 a.m. media interviews)
Saturday, Feb. 26, 2005

WHERE: Southwestern College Dental Hygiene Program
880 National City Blvd., National City

WHY: A recent study of San Diego County children in grades 2 through 5 found that 30 percent had untreated cavities and 74 percent had active gum disease. Painting dental sealants and fluoride varnish on teeth is a safe and painless way to help prevent cavities. Unfortunately, many children do not receive these services, particularly in South Bay. This free clinic, funded by the San Diego County Dental Society and the San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency, will help address this important health issue, while teaching families about local dental health resources. The event supports the "Something to Smile About" program initiated by San Diego County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price. For information, the public may call (619) 692-8858.

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