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PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Pinellas County Dentists Give Kids Something to Smile About
National Children's Dental Access Day Set for February 4, 2005**

On Friday, February 4, 2005 an estimated 200 children from local low-income families in Pinellas County will receive free dental services as part of national **Give Kids a Smile Day**.

Give Kids a Smile Day is a collaboration between the Pinellas County Dental Association, local dental education institutions and the Pinellas County Health Department. Children will be seen at locations throughout the county.

Financially eligible children who do not have access to dental care will receive a dental screening, teeth cleaning, fluoride treatment, sealants and – while they last – home health care kits. Parents/guardians must provide transportation and must have completed all eligibility and consent forms in advance. Follow-up care, if needed, will take place on February 11.

"It's heartbreaking to see a child's smile destroyed by tooth decay," said Haychell Saraydar, D.D.S., director of the Dental Division of the Pinellas County Health Department. "Imagine not being able to eat, sleep or pay attention in school because you have a toothache. Children need good dental care, and this is a way to start. Our participation in this event is an important part of our commitment to promote healthy behavior."

For more information, call the Give Kids a Smile Information Line at (727) 219-6077.

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The mission of the Pinellas County Health Department is to promote, protect and improve the health and safety of residents and visitors through public and private community efforts.