



# SMILE Lines

Winter Newsletter

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## Smile Feature: Changing Lives a Smile at a time

Every child treated at our clinic is deserving and thankful for the work that they receive, but we want to highlight some of the life changing treatments that are donated each year. This year we chose a young man named Brandon who had his front tooth broken off in an accident. We had the pleasure of interviewing Brandon's grandmother who informed us that his family is in dire financial stress. He is one of three siblings and his parents are doing all they can to keep their heads above water and unfortunately dental treatment is something that simply cannot afford. She said, "without the help of this clinic and these people he wouldn't be able to have any work completed." With the help of a team of doctors and assistants, Brandon was given not only a new tooth, after a root canal, build up, and crown, but also had fillings done in each quadrant of his mouth. When I was walking Brandon out after his treatment was completed, he not only hugged and thanked me for the work but told me, "I can't wait to go to school on Monday and smile." This was such a touching statement coming from a 10 year old boy. There are things in life many of us take for granted, but to be able to share my talents and let this child smile again reminds me to always be thankful for all that I have. I am so happy that we were able to make such a difference in Brandon's life.



## GKAS Pledge Drive 2015—YOUR Help is Needed

*Dear Friends*

*It is hard to believe that kids still suffer with the pain of dental disease. One young child at our recent clinic came to us directly from a hospital bed. This little 7 year old had already missed 10 days of school to an uncontrolled dental infection. It became life threatening and antibiotics were administered at a local emergency room but they could not help him any further. Thanks to the efforts of our volunteer dentists and staff, that little guy was treated and sent home pain-free and able to finally return to school. Your financial support will make it possible for Give Kids A Smile clinics and services to continue. It is our hope to reach our 2015 pledge drive goal of \$100,000 by December 31<sup>st</sup>. Please help the only organization in St. Louis that works to treat and prevent dental disease in the very young. Our dream is to provide the means and education to have a "cavity-free" generation in the near future. Help us make this dream come true!*

*Gratefully  
Joan Allen, Executive Director*

## THANK YOU!!!!

GKAS is supported by many foundations, organizations, and individuals. Without their financial and In-kind support, our free clinics and services could not be rendered. We are sincerely grateful. Here is just a small list that we would like to thank at this time.

### OUR clinic VOLUNTEERS

Delta Dental of MO  
MO Foundation for Health  
Henry Schein  
Benco Dental  
Central Bank  
Patterson Dental  
Cuivre River Electric  
Community Trust  
Express Scripts  
Cardinals CARE  
Employees Community  
Fund of Boeing  
Keller Lab  
William R. Orthwein Jr. and  
Laura Rand Orthwein  
Foundation Inc.

Without your help we would not be able to provide the quality of care that we do to the patients in need. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

## Year in Review



## Save the Date for February's Clinic!

Our 29<sup>th</sup> Clinic will be held this year at St. Louis University's School for Advanced Dental Education on **Friday February 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday February 20<sup>th</sup>**. With your help, we hope to treat nearly 650 kids! Volunteers are always needed to fulfill roles in all aspects of the clinic. Please visit our website at [www.GKAS.org](http://www.GKAS.org) to sign up online, or if you prefer, simply call Patti or Joan at the GKAS office at 636-397-6453. We hope you can join us at GKAS and the many other volunteers from across the region for a fun and rewarding weekend of giving back to the kids in our community.

## Upcoming events

**April 29, 2016:** *Trivia Night*  
**June 6, 2016:** *Golf Tournament*  
**October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>:** *Biannual Clinic*