

Joan L. Allen, BS, MA



Joan Allen is the first executive director of Give Kids A Smile – St. Louis. She has been the acting executive director since 2005. Under her leadership, GKAS – St. Louis continues to conduct GKAS free dental clinics, Tiny Smiles clinics and expanded dental services for children in volunteer Smile Factories offices which have served thousands of area children with millions of dollars of free comprehensive dental care and related services. Give Kids A Smile St. Louis is the model community outreach program for the American Dental Association. Mrs. Allen received her BS from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and her MA from the University of Missouri. Her expertise as a retired business educator and vocational coordinator with 30 years of experience in a school district in which over 85% of the children were at or below the poverty level, further prepared her for the logistical and personal needs of the underserved children and their families. Joan Allen believes that providing comprehensive dental care for children while educating the kids and their caregivers will “slow the tide” of dental disease for all family members.