

## Delta Dental of New Jersey Community Outreach

For 40 years, Delta Dental of New Jersey has reached out to serve the people of New Jersey. It is our mission to promote oral health to the greatest number of people by providing accessible dental benefit programs of the highest quality, service, and value.

In 1986, we formed the Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation, Inc. to promote and assist educational projects devoted to the enhancement of dental health, research programs designed to increase public awareness of the general benefits of good oral health, and to improve dental health through the science of dentistry. Each year, the Foundation provides financial support to various organizations throughout New Jersey and Connecticut, to provide dental care to the indigent and underserved populations.

### Oral Health Education Initiative

In 2007, the Foundation began offering a grant, for up to \$5,000, to elementary schools located in Abbott School Districts because currently oral health is not part of the New Jersey school curriculum. The goal of this grant is to promote oral health education all school year long, as well as instill good oral hygiene habits at a young age. This grant is geared towards third graders, and schools must complete our Foundation's grant application that requires 10 oral health lessons (one per month of the school year). Some lessons include:

reading books about dental health, field trips to local dental offices, making homemade toothpaste, and learning about dental careers. Schools are judged on creativity, feasibility, sustainability, cost, and measurement. Since 2007, nine schools have received this grant.



### Community Outreach and Employee Involvement

- For over 15 years, Delta Dental has been a Premier Sponsor of Special Olympics—NJ. Our employees volunteer to assist at games and competitions throughout the state.
- We conduct a food drive at Thanksgiving for the clients of Hope House in Dover.
- Our employees donate holiday gifts to different local charitable organizations, which have included: Youth Consultation Services, VA Hospital, Fireman's Retirement Home, and Karen Ann Quinlan Hospice.
- Our employees participate in the American Heart Association's "Go Red for Women" campaign each February to generate awareness and education about heart disease.
- Since 2004, Delta Dental employees have participated in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. To date our employees, along with a company match, have donated over \$45,000 to this cause.
- In 2006, Delta Dental created a Volunteer Policy, which enables all employees to take off up to two work days with pay to volunteer for local charitable organizations of their choice. Group volunteer activities include: helping the Boy Scouts in South Jersey obtain a "Dentistry Merit Badge" and decorating the common area of a shelter for women and children at Eva's Village, which assists the addicted and homeless of Paterson.



### Dental Care for the Underserved

Half of the Foundation's \$1 million budget is focused on access to care for the underserved. The Foundation supports the following clinics:

- East Orange Health and Human Services Dental Clinic
- Eric B. Chandler Health Center, New Brunswick
- Eva's Village, Paterson
- Henry J. Austin Health Center, Trenton
- Hunterdon County Dental Program
- Jewish Renaissance Medical Center/Quitman Street School-Based Dental Clinic, Newark
- JFK Medical Center Dental Clinic, Edison
- K. Brennan School-Based Dental Clinic, New Haven, CT
- Matheny Medical and Educational Center, treatment for developmentally disabled patients
- Morristown Memorial Hospital Clinic, treatment for developmentally disabled patients and senior citizens
- Newark Community Health Center
- Ocean Health Initiatives, Inc., Lakewood
- Paterson Dental Clinic
- UMDNJ—Special Needs Clinic, Newark
- Virtua-West Jersey Hospital, Camden
- Yale-New Haven Hospital Dental Clinic, New Haven, CT
- Zufall Health Center, Dover

## How Do I Apply for Funding for My Organization?

The Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation has a strong commitment to the improvement of oral health in New Jersey and Connecticut. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit, charitable organization, established in 1986 by Delta Dental of New Jersey, Inc. Today, the Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of New Jersey and has awarded more than \$9 million since its inception.

Each year, the Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation awards grants throughout the states of New Jersey and Connecticut for dental research, dental education, and access to dental care for the underserved. Some grants are awarded for one-time projects, and some grants may continue from year to year, depending on funds available and the success of the program.

The grant approval process:

- The Foundation Board of Trustees meets three times a year.
- At the September meeting, the Board reviews all preliminary (Round One) applications for the upcoming year. Those grantees that are selected for further consideration are notified they will be moving to the Round Two process. Those grantees not selected will be so notified.
- At the December meeting, the Board reviews the Round Two applications and awards grants. All are notified of the outcome.
- At the May meeting, the Board reviews scholarship applications and awards grants for the upcoming school year.

Requirements of grantees:

- Grantees must include a copy of their current valid Internal Revenue Service tax exemption determination letter (must be a 501(c)3 or a government entity).
- Grantees must complete the Grant Application and answer all questions.
- Grantees must sign and return a Grant Agreement before funds are disbursed.
- Grantees are required to complete all answers to an Outcomes Report that will be supplied to them. The Outcomes Reports are due six months into and 45 days after the end of the grant period.
- Grantees must allow Foundation Board members to make a site visit at their facility at a mutually convenient time.
- Grantees must file an application annually, even when they are continuing programs from year to year.

The Foundation can be reached at [foundation@deltadentalnj.com](mailto:foundation@deltadentalnj.com) or 973-944-4555.

## Oral Health Education

Delta Dental has for more than a decade sponsored the Captain Supertooth program, an educational program for elementary schools throughout New Jersey and Connecticut. The superhero teaches children the importance of oral health and shows them how to brush and floss their teeth. He also encourages them to eat nutritious foods and visit the dentist at least twice a year.

P.A.N.D.A. (Prevent Abuse and Neglect through Dental Awareness) is an educational program to help dental professionals, teachers, and anyone who works with children how to recognize and report suspected child abuse and neglect. Our Foundation has supported the Blue Ribbon Campaign for Prevent Child Abuse—New Jersey to raise awareness about child abuse.

To demonstrate our sensitivity to the critical shortage of dental professionals, the Foundation has made major contributions to:

- UMDNJ School of Allied Health Professions
- The Bloomfield Health Careers Foundation Dental Assisting Program
- Bergen Community College
- Burlington County College
- Camden County College
- Middlesex County College
- Tunxis Community College, CT
- University of Bridgeport, CT
- High School Dental Assisting Programs at Bloomfield High School, Montclair High School, Newark Public Schools, and Nutley High School

For more information about Delta Dental's Foundation and community involvement, please visit [www.deltadentalnj.com](http://www.deltadentalnj.com) and click on "Foundation" in the left navigation bar.