



FOUNDATION
for
COMMUNITY
HEALTH

Prevention, Access, Collaboration

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release

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In-School Dental Services Coming to Dover School

The oral health work that was begun by the Foundation for Community Health in our local schools five years ago has come full circle and will soon be providing dental services in one eastern Dutchess County school.

In the fall of 2005, the Foundation for Community Health conducted oral health screenings of third graders in most of the schools in its service area in CT and NY with the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. The resulting data gave them the evidence to support their ongoing work to improve prevention and to increase access to affordable, quality dental care.

In the ensuing years, they have funded numerous oral health services and programs including in-school dental services that are provided through the Columbia Memorial Hospital for the Taconic Hills School District in Columbia County and by the Maria Seymour Brooker Memorial for nearly all of the schools in the Region 1 School District in Litchfield County. In addition, funding was provided for a mobile dental van and one of the dental operatories at Hudson River HealthCare in Amenia, NY. They also made a significant contribution to the establishment of a dental practice at the Health & Wellness Center of Greater Torrington in CT that has increased access to oral health services in Litchfield County.

At this time, the Foundation is very pleased to announce that they have funded an in-school dental project that will serve the Dover School in NY. The Foundation for Community Health has awarded Hudson River HealthCare to pilot a program at the Dover Plains Elementary School that will provide education, screenings, cleaning and sealants for all of the 3rd graders. The grant also includes the development of a plan to expand this program to other grades.

Hudson River HealthCare is working with the Dover School administration to develop a strong partnership. They plan to begin the dental health education this coming spring and to roll out the full program at the start of the 2012-2013 school year.

This program is a long awaited component of the Foundation for Community Health's oral health work and their intent is to eventually have in-school dental programs in all of the schools in their service area. It is expected that these services will help in reducing oral health issues for our children as they grow into adulthood.