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Delta Dental Foundation Awards \$2,000 Smiles for Kids Grant to America's ToothFairy to Improve Oral Health Education in North Carolina

Charlotte, NC (May 20, 2019) America's ToothFairy, also known as the National Children's Oral Health Foundation (NCOHF), received a \$2,000 Smiles for Kids grant from the [Delta Dental Foundation](#) (DDF) to support their Oral Health HERO program by assisting with volunteer engagement and training.

The HERO program focuses on four areas: Health, Education, Resources, and Outreach. The program positions volunteers as "community superheroes" that are equipped with educational resources to train teachers to educate North Carolina children and families about oral health. Volunteers will also lead Smile Drives to collect oral care products to provide to families in need. The goal is to reinforce the link between oral and overall systemic health and to promote positive oral health behaviors.

"Preventing dental disease begins with education," said Jill Malmgren, Executive Director of America's ToothFairy. "Thanks to the Delta Dental Foundation's support, community volunteers will be equipped with critical resources and training to educate children and their caregivers and promote positive oral health behaviors in their communities."

The Delta Dental Foundation focuses on ensuring that children and adults in North Carolina receive high quality oral health education and dental care. The grant received by America's ToothFairy is one of 19 grants totaling \$70,000 that DDF is donating to North Carolina oral health organizations and programs in 2019. This is the second year that America's ToothFairy has been awarded a Smiles for Kids grant. Grant recipients were selected based on criteria that included the number of at-risk children served, the uniqueness of the program, the level of community involvement in the program and the ability to measure results.

"The Delta Dental Foundation is committed to promoting good oral health habits and providing better access to quality dental care for those who are underserved in our state," said Curt Ladig, president and CEO of Delta Dental of North Carolina. "Supporting the work of America's ToothFairy can help ensure that more children are educated about the importance of good oral health and receive the care they need to grow up healthy and be successful in school and in life."

About America's ToothFairy

America's ToothFairy/ National Children's Oral Health Foundation (NCOHF) was formed in 2006 as a collaborative effort of clinicians, academicians, corporate leaders and caring individuals to provide an aggressive response to the children's oral health crisis in the U.S. NCOHF is a resource provider, equipping non-profit dental clinics, organizations and volunteers with educational materials and resources to increase delivery of oral health education and care. Since its inception, NCOHF has distributed more than \$18 million in resources and programming to support children's oral health programs. For more information, visit www.ncohf.org.

About the Delta Dental Foundation

The Delta Dental Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization established in 1980, which serves as the philanthropic arm of Delta Dental of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, and North Carolina. The foundation's goals are to support education and research for the advancement of dental science, and to promote the oral health of the public through education and service activities, particularly for those with special needs. For more information, visit www.deltadentalnc.com.

About Delta Dental of North Carolina

Delta Dental of North Carolina is a nonprofit dental service corporation created in 1970 to provide dental benefits throughout the state. Its mission is to improve the oral health of the communities it serves. It does so by providing affordable access to oral health care with the largest network of providers, including two out of every three dentists, in North Carolina.

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