

# On The Road Again: A Tooth Taxi Update

January 16, 2009

by Mary Daly, Program Manager, Tooth Taxi

As the U.S. celebrated an historical event with our new President, Barack Obama, the Tooth Taxi held its own spot in the limelight. We had a fantastic week last week at Sunrise school in Albany; a record in terms of volunteers (15) and value of free dental services provided (\$30,076).

Our week was orchestrated by Stephanie Hagerty of the Albany General Hospital Foundation and "retired" dentist, Dr. Mike Goger. Stephanie and Dr. Goger touted our program, introduced the Tooth Taxi to the citizens of Albany and recruited dental professionals to experience the Tooth Taxi first hand. They arranged open houses for two evenings, introducing members of the civic, educational and dental communities to the Tooth Taxi and its mission. They also worked with partners to ensure we had students from Albany public schools, the Albany Options School and the Albany Boys & Girls Club. The Albany Hospital Foundation provided snacks, lunches, and dinners all week for Tooth Taxi team and volunteers.

## Sunrise School Stats

86 students screened

- 44 students treated in the van
- \$30,076 value of free dental services provided

Tremendous thanks to all our volunteers that gave kids positive dental experiences, happy smiles and helped to make our week so successful:

- Dr. Mike Goger
- Dr. Jeff Carl & assistant Carmen Miller
- Dr. Douglas Johnson & assistant Kathy Nelson
- Dr. James Delgado & assistant Kathleen Brady
- Dr. Scott Nicholson & assistant Rhonda McAlister
- Dr. Jon Woods & assistants Julie Reynolds and Michelle Nevin
- OSU pre-dental student Audrey Riesen

## Student Gallery

"I like the dentist better than recess."

Assistant asks, "How are your teeth?" "They're good but I have a cavity."

"I woke up an hour early and brushed my teeth for an hour".



*Dr. Chris Walker, OSU pre-dental student Audrey Riesen, a happy Tooth Taxi patient and assistant Vanessa Wren.*



*Dr. Heringer and Sunrise Elementary Principal Lori Greenfield.*

Teachers (who thought we were just giving out toothbrushes and toothpaste) were invited to visit the van to see our range of services. Our week in Albany was a unique situation with so many dedicated community partners. As always we learned a lot and have some new ideas to use in developing our program.

Another coup for the Albany week was the first "partnership" between MTI and the Tooth Taxi. The MTI van had been in Albany earlier in the month and referred a young student to the Tooth Taxi who needed the services of a pediatric dentist. The student was treated successfully on the Tooth Taxi. This example is the perfect situation that demonstrates and answers concerns that have been expressed to us about both dental vans being in the same community.

### **Summary**

Tooth Taxi, September 2008 - January 16, 2009

- 840 students screened
- 306 students received oral hygiene education in the classroom
- 391 students treated in the van
- \$256,828 value of free dental services provided