



News Release

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Century College's Give Kids a Smile Day Serves 129 Children

The Century College Give Kids a Smile Day event this semester served 129 children, many of whom had never had regular dental care.

Patients who ranged in age from 1 to 17 years old received free services that included oral health education, screenings, exams, cleanings, sealants and fluoride treatments. Participants also performed seven extractions and 18 surface restorations. The total value of all the donated services was \$27,394.

The largest number of patients came from St. Paul, Maplewood, Hudson, Wis., White Bear Lake, New Richmond, Wis., and Stillwater.

The 10 volunteer dentists included doctors Matt Grau, Jake Koller, Diane Zimmerman, Clay Shepherd, Ervin Savord, Laura Eng, Steve Bejarano, Diane Crater, Stuart Haglund and Laura Kinney. Also participating were seven community volunteers, five Century graduates, nine faculty members, two retired faculty members, 24 dental hygiene students and 30 dental assisting students. Referrals were made to local collaborating dentists who agreed to complete the needs of the children who were seen. Eighteen of the referred patients had urgent needs that included infections and significant cavities.

This annual event by the Century College Dental Assisting and Dental Hygiene departments is held in cooperation with the Minnesota Dental Association. It is an opportunity for both departments to engage students in real-life dental experiences, serving patients and working together as a team. This initiative, for some families, is their only opportunity to receive dental care for the children.

“This is an incredible volunteer opportunity that provides an educational experience for our students and care for children who otherwise might go without,” said Tracy Kuny, a dental hygiene instructor at Century. “The feeling of contributing to our community and creating community within the college makes this one of my favorite activities every year.”

“It is wonderful to have the opportunity to put smiles on the children’s faces as well as their parents’ faces,” said Amy Rafter, a Century dental hygiene instructor.



Photo: Children received free dental care at Century College’s Give Kids a Smile Day.