



MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Niagara College Dental programs serve community *Shiny Smiles for All program helps local kids; new dental fund will support college students and their children*

As part of the **Shiny Smiles for All** project, more than 20 area elementary school students will receive dental treatment today. The project represents a unique community outreach program aimed at children who don't have access to dental coverage. Now in its second year, the project is a partnership among Niagara College dental programs, the United Way of South Niagara, the Rotary Club of Welland, the Niagara Peninsula Dental Association and Regional Niagara Public Health Dental Programs.

The young patients underwent an assessment in February, and were identified as being in need of treatment. Five local dentists donated their time to provide the services required.

"This is a project that allows our students to gain key practical experience, and also teaches lessons in the importance of giving back to the community," said Ruth McMullan, Co-ordinator of the College's Dental Assisting program. "We're very grateful to our community partners for making this program a reality."

Niagara College also launched a new fund today to support dental care for college students in need. The Niagara College Community Dental Care Fund was established through a donation from the Citizens for Better Dental Health, and will be administered by the Niagara College Foundation. The fund will be open to college students in need and their dependents, and will cover an assessment in the College's Dr. James Sim Dental Clinic and any required treatment.

"Niagara College prides itself on its dedication to the wellness of both students and staff," said Sean Kennedy, Niagara College's Vice President of Student and Community Relations. "Through their generosity, the Citizens for Better Dental Health have ensured that students in need will have access to any dental care they may require. We're very grateful."

The Niagara College Dr. James Sim Dental Clinic is operated by staff and students from the Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene and Dental Office Administration programs. The clinic is open Tuesday to Thursday from September to the end of May.

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