



# Tooth Talk

The newsletter of the Miles of Smiles Inc. Portable Dental Program

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## A reason to smile



Program Coordinator Pam Lollar (left) and Dental Assistant Sara Vick (right) treat a child at Gracemor Elementary School in Kansas City, Mo. This child was one of 60 children seen for 167 chair visits in the three weeks Miles of Smiles visited the school in February.

## Bridging the gap

# Goodbye and good luck

A love of children and a commitment to service brought Dr. Allison Schumacher to Miles of Smiles one and a half years ago. The winner of the pediatric dentistry award in 2007 from Southern Illinois University School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Schumacher was selected for a pediatric residency. Instead, she chose to follow her then fiancé, Dr. Chuck Schumacher, who was pursuing an orthodontics residency in Kansas City. It was a life-changing event.

Dr. Schumacher

says she found her ideal job at Miles of Smiles—the opportunity to work with children and serve the community.

“It’s so rewarding to help and have an impact on these children’s habits,” Dr. Allison Schumacher says.

In August, Dr. Schumacher and her husband will return to Illinois to be closer to family. Dr. Chuck Schumacher is starting a new practice and Dr. Allison Schumacher will join a private practice as an associate dentist.

Dr. Chuck Schum-



Drs. Allison and Chuck Schumacher

acher says he admires his wife’s work and he knows she loves it because she comes home from work smiling. “It’s amazing what kind of service they can provide by going from school to school,” he says. ♦

## Words of wisdom

# We need you more than ever

You can help a child live a longer, healthier life. Since Miles of Smiles launched in 2002, we’ve seen more than 11,932



Christy May  
Executive Director

children for 26,280 chair visits, providing charitable dental care in a community-based setting to the needy children of Clay and Platte Counties. That’s 11,932 children whose lives are changed because of your support.

So what difference does a clean, healthy mouth make in a child’s life? Consider this: Recent research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show about 20 percent of preschoolers—that’s children ages 4 and 5—have tooth decay. And 50 percent have tooth decay by the third grade. By the time children reach the age of 17, 86 percent have tooth decay. More than 52 million school hours and more than 164 million work hours are missed each year due to dental problems.

The good news: By adding dental varnish to routine dental procedures, we can prevent 48 percent to 60 percent of cavities. At a small cost—about \$1 per treatment—we can eliminate the need for many expensive, time-consuming, painful procedures. Remember, the donations we receive not only help children feel better—they give them the opportunity for a brighter, more successful future. ♦

At the root

# They're ready for retirement

What do you do when it's time for a loyal, trusted team member to retire? You've got to find a new candidate to replace that faithful employee who's served the organization for so long and so well.

When Miles of Smiles launched in 2002, we purchased two dental chairs. We added a second set as our team grew. After 6,570 chair visits from 2,983 children per chair, these chairs are ready to retire. Before they can, we need suitable replacements.

Each of our four chairs is sterilized between every patient. After seven years supporting thousands of children during dental examinations and procedures, this valuable equipment is beginning to show its age. The cracking and patched holes make them more difficult to clean, eating up valuable time during visits to local schools.



This chair is one of two original chairs purchased when Miles of Smiles launched in 2002 that need to be replaced.

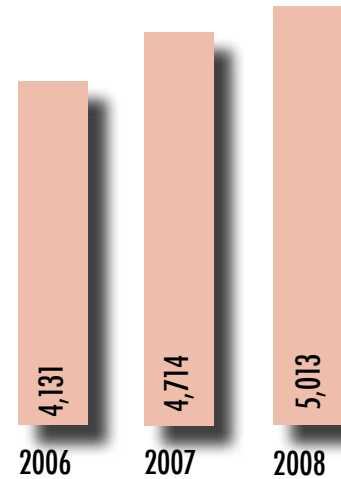
Can you help? Please enclose an additional donation to help us afford replacements and allow our original chairs to achieve the retirement they deserve. ♦

By the numbers

## A look at chair time

In seven years of service Miles of Smiles has helped more than 11,932 children who have had more than 26,280 chair visits. Here's a look at our growth from 2006 to 2008.

Chair visits per year:



Source: Miles of Smiles Inc.



6301 North Oak Trafficway, Suite 204  
Oakview, MO 64118