

## San Francisco Head Start, San Francisco Department of Public Health & San Francisco Dental Hygiene Society Working Hand in Hand



Isn't it nice when people and services come together? On July 18, 2009 and August 1, 2009 these three organizations came together achieving a common goal, serving the underserved.

San Francisco Head Start/Early Start provides early childhood education and other services to low income children and families in San Francisco through its center-based and home-based programs as well as through the delegate and partner agencies with which it works.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health strives to achieve its mission through the work of two Divisions - the Community Health Network (CHN) and Population Health and Prevention. The CHN is the City's health system and has locations throughout the City. The Population Health and Prevention Division has a broad focus on the communities of San Francisco and is comprised of the Community Health and Safety Branch, Community Health Promotion and Prevention Branch, and the Community Health Services Branch.

The San Francisco Dental Hygiene Society had the pleasure once again to collaborate with these organizations, providing services at Wu Yee Children's Services'. Wu Yee Children's Services' mission is to promote the healthy development of children and families by providing high-quality, culturally and linguistically appropriate children and family support services. On Saturday July 18, 2009 at Wu Yee Family Resource Center in Chinatown and on Saturday August 1, 2009 at Wu Yee Children's Center at New Generation, in Visitation Valley SFDHS volunteers descended and unselfishly served.

In total we screened 85 children ages 2 – 4 years old (2 children refused and one child had no teeth, only 5 months old) and placed Fluoride Varnish on 70 children, 27% of the children had visible decay. The breakdown in decay rate was: 62 children had no visible decay, 15 children had beginning decay including white spot lesion and 8 children had severe decay. After these children were identified referrals to local clinics were made. Both the Head Start Program and Wu Yee Children's Services follow up to make sure the appropriate care is received.

Thank you so much to our SF Dental Hygiene volunteers: Heather Steich, Jeremy Scheckengost, Gwen Lang, Bianca Wu, Paulon Lee, Wendy Leung, Nikita Yefimova, Michael Long, Jaime McAdams, Nikita Yefimova, Diane Slover and Fivel Munitian. As well as our high school volunteer, Janice Sanchez, Melody Chee, a Public Health volunteer and Amanda Johnson, an AmeriCorps Intern.

Special thanks and recognition goes to Margaret Fisher, RDHAP. Margaret currently works as an Oral Health Consultant with SF Dept. of Public Health and also sits as SFDHS Public Health Chair. She has her finger on the pulse of San Francisco's children's dental health needs and continuously brings increased awareness to us all.