

History & Growth of Give Kids a Smile

American Dental Association

The ADA launched the Give Kids a Smile program nationally in 2003 as a way for dentists to provide dental services to underserved children in their communities. Dentists and other team members volunteer their time to provide screenings, treatments, and oral health education to children. Since the start of the program it has grown each year and in its first ten years, more than 100,000 dentist volunteers have provided free dental services to nearly 4.5 million children in the United States. Give Kids a Smile enhances the oral health of children in need and demonstrates to policy makers the challenges that disadvantaged families face in finding dental care.

Ohio Dental Association

Ohio dentists and other volunteers have participated in the Give Kids a Smile program since the national launch in 2003. The treatment value of services provided to children in need in Ohio has increased substantially over the years. The growth of the GKAS program in Ohio is outlined in the table below.

Year	Donated Services	# of Children
2003	\$200,000	3,000
2004	\$800,000	30,000
2005	\$800,000	30,000
2006	\$1,050,000	20,000
2007	\$1,115,750	23,000
2008	\$1,016,500	17,000
2009	\$1,175,000	17,000
2010	\$1,200,000	16,000
2011	\$1,100,000	15,000
2012	\$1,007,000	14,000
2013	\$765,500	13,500
2014	\$1,171,000	17,750



ADA American Dental Association®

Over the past 12 years of GKAS, Ohio dental volunteers have provided more than \$11 million in free dental services to over 215,000 children in need!

Financial Impact of Give Kids a Smile

In addition to the volunteer efforts of the dentists and other dental professionals, there are significant in-kind donations made by dental clinics, dental schools, and dental offices which lose revenue for the day that the facility is doing only volunteer work. These sites still pay overhead for their office and salaries for staff that are integral to the success of their event. Sponsors also support GKAS Day programs at the local, state and national levels. Thank you to all of the volunteers and sponsors who continue to make GKAS a success year in and year out!

If you are interested in holding a Give Kids a Smile event in your community please contact the ODA at (614) 486-2700 for more information.