

## Say hello to your teeth!



PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program (PRASAD CDHP) is taking a bite out of the more than 50 million school hours American kids lose each year because of cavities and other dental diseases.

We use our teeth all day, for so many things: talking, eating, smiling and laughing, yet we don't often think about them. Unless, of course, we get a toothache. Then, it's all we can think about. PRASAD CDHP is changing that by helping kids understand why it's so important to keep their teeth healthy, and how to do that.

One of PRASAD CDHP's initiatives is our partnership with the Registered Nursing Program at Sullivan County Community College.

*"This partnership between PRASAD CDHP and Sullivan County Community College is a great example of community collaboration."*

*continued on page 2*

## Kids who enjoy visiting the dentist!

Imagine a child looking forward to a trip to the dentist. Have you ever seen youngsters getting excited about their dental health? It sounds far-fetched, but PRASAD CDHP is making it a reality!

Through education, outreach and positive experiences, we are changing how our patients feel about going to the dentist! See the next page to hear from a few patients who say a trip to the dentist makes them smile.

*"It's interesting, kind of fun!"*

*continued on page 2*



*Guytano Carillo celebrated his great dental check up with some high fives for the clinic staff.*



## Meet Josue Espinoza

White Lake, NY—When PRASAD CDHP dental hygienist, Susan Purcell, was conducting dental screenings at Duggan Elementary School, she met 8-year old Josue Espinoza. A PRASAD CDHP patient since the age of four, Josue has learned a lot from our dental health education classes. He doesn't drink soda because, he says, "It has too much sugar." Most importantly, he brushes twice every day, and gets a dental check-up two times each year. He is the kind of patient dentists dream about. Here, Josue smiles his way through his dental screening with Susan.

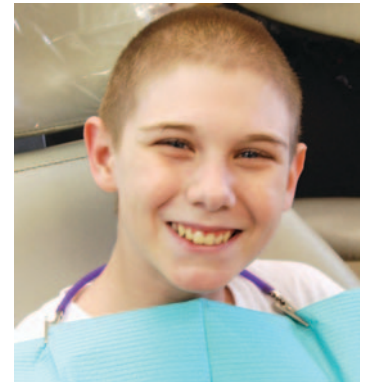
Josue Espinoza enjoyed every minute of his dental screening with dental hygienist Susan Purcell.

## Meet Noel Santoro

Hurleyville, NY—Thirteen-year old Noel lounged back in the dental chair and closed his eyes, ready to thoroughly enjoy his six-month check-up. In fact, Noel was so laid-back during his exam, that the clinic staff asked him how he stays so relaxed. "I like it here. I get to hang out with my friends," he said, grinning at the staff members.

## Meet Tayler Pagan

Hurleyville, NY—After nine years as a PRASAD CDHP patient, Taylor Pagan has a great perspective on visiting the dentist. "It's interesting, kind of fun," she said, searching for the right words. Her eyes widened. "It's kind of like being pampered!" After cleaning Tayler's teeth, the dentist handed her a mirror. The 14-year old Tayler checked out her smile and said, "I want my teeth to look good and be healthy. Can I have some floss, please?"



Noel Santoro, a patient since 2002, says a trip to the mobile dental clinic is like a visit with friends.



Taylor Pagan says a trip to the dentist is a chance to feel pampered.

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continued from page 1

The nursing students visit local elementary schools, where they 'introduce' children to their teeth. Using a storybook and giant props, the future nurses show and tell kids about their teeth and answer their questions: *How many teeth do I have? What's the difference between my baby teeth and my grown-up ones? How and when should I brush? What will happen if I don't take care of*

*my teeth?* Dr. M. Cecilia Escarra, PRASAD CDHP's Program Administrator said, "This partnership between PRASAD CDHP and Sullivan County Community College is a great example of community collaboration because PRASAD provides educational materials and dental hygiene supplies and the nursing students deliver the lesson."



RN candidates from SCCC role play as they read first-graders a story about Elliott (PRASAD CDHP's elephant mascot) and his first visit to the dentist.



Nursing student Amy Hallock uses giant props to 'introduce' first graders to their teeth.



## Donate Today!

Donate today and it will be matched! In celebration of the life of her sister, Gudrun, donor Margareta Blix is giving PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program (PRASAD CDHP) a grant of up to \$20,000 to match, dollar-for-dollar, all contributions received from new donors, through October 31, 2010.



## Did You Know?



You can celebrate your birthday with a Facebook Causes Birthday Wish! Instead of gifts, ask your friends to give money to PRASAD CDHP. Help children in need of dental care while celebrating! Just sign up at:

<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/birthdays/new>



## Gentle Dental Humor

Q: Why did the tree go to the dentist?

A: To get a root canal.

Q: Why did the king go to the dentist?

A: To get his teeth crowned!

Dear Friends,



While schools are closed, we station our Mobile Dental Clinic at our Hurleyville office to provide dental care to children during the summer. Each year this transition provides a pause for us to reflect on our program.

Above all, we are grateful for your ongoing support. You allow us to carry out our mission to provide accessible dental care to underserved children.

We are blessed with remarkable community leaders who work diligently to help our program. PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program could not have served 59,000 children to date, without the support of local and regional government leaders, public schools, community organizations and local businesses.

The social and economic challenges in rural Sullivan County are great. The latest government statistics rank Sullivan County 56th of 62 counties in New York in Access to Care and Quality of Care. Oral Health Indicators show that 64 percent of Sullivan County's third-grade children have cavities, 18 percent higher than the statewide average.

We are one of the very few dental care providers who accept Medicaid insurance plans, and we offer discounted fees to the uninsured. Increasingly, these reimbursements cover only a portion of the cost of providing dental services; yet our mission is to provide dental care to children, regardless of their families' ability to pay the costs.

I invite you to continue your support, so that we can continue to meet the needs of children who would otherwise go without dental care. Use the enclosed envelope or donate online at [www.prasacdhp.org](http://www.prasacdhp.org). For new donors, contribute now through October 31, 2010, and DOUBLE your gift, thanks to a Matching Grant from a generous donor! Please tell us you wish to participate in the Match program. We deeply appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

*M. Cecilia Escarra*

Dr. M. Cecilia Escarra  
Program Administrator

## About PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program, Inc.

Since 1996, PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program, based in Hurleyville, N.Y., has provided dental care services and dental health education to children from low-income families in New York State. Through our state-of-the-art mobile dental clinic and dental health education initiatives, we have served more than 59,000 children and provided more than 165,000 procedures in Sullivan and Ulster counties. For more about PRASAD CDHP, go to [www.prasacdhp.org](http://www.prasacdhp.org).

PRASAD Children's Dental Health Program is an initiative of The PRASAD Project, an international not-for-profit organization committed to improving the quality of life of economically disadvantaged people around the world. PRASAD is a philanthropic expression of the SYDA Foundation. For more about The PRASAD Project, go to [www.prasad.org](http://www.prasad.org).



## In This Issue

After nine years as a PRASAD CDHP patient, Tayler Pagan has a great perspective on visiting the dentist:

***“It’s interesting, kind of fun!”***

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Are you a PRASAD CDHP Partner yet?

*If not, we invite you to become one!*

Contact us to learn more.

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Visit [www.prasadcdhp.org](http://www.prasadcdhp.org) for more information

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