



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Winifred J. Booker, DDS
wbcuhi@aol.com/443-286-6386

Leslie E. Grant, DDS, MSPA
legrant@comcast.net/410-978-9727

Goal Of Delivering 3000 Lunch Boxes to Maryland School Children Surpassed!

Lessons In A Lunch Box program has many more children smiling.

Baltimore, MD – The Maryland Children's Oral Health Institute presented the *Lessons In A Lunch Box Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks™* program to a tenth school on Friday, April 18th. The goal of delivering 3,000 lunch boxes to Maryland school children was surpassed this week at Northwood Elementary School. The number of lunch boxes given to elementary students now totals 3,012. Presidents of the Maryland Dental Society (MDS), Dr. Kenny Hooper and Robert T. Freedman Dental Society, Dr. Riccardo Jones were on hand to help achieve the 3,000 target. Both were most happy to pitch in to help distribute the lunch container embellished with information about dentistry and recommendations to encourage healthy-life-styles. MDS members and dental students from the University of Maryland again provided their assistances and support to more than 700 thrilled and smiling children and teachers. Mr. Edward English, the school principal, was pleased to see the excitement of the children when they received their lesson filled lunch boxes packaged with child-friendly dental hygiene products.

The Maryland Children's Oral Health Institute Board methodically executed the presentation at the largest school to date to receive the program and lunch boxes. The Director of Operations, Dr. Michele Dozier, showed the tapes about the proper way to brush and use dental floss. Dr. Dozier also coordinated the responsibilities of dental students and provided the documentation for their community service. Dr. Leslie E. Grant, Director of Outreach & Advocacy and 2006 National Dental Association president, provided the comprehensive explanation of every aspect of the lunch box for the children and teachers in the audience. Mrs. Sherry H. Senter, the Education Resource Consultant gave teachers an overview of the lesson guide compiled to help reinforce *Lessons In A Lunch Box* in the classroom.

The Chief of Staff to Congressman Elijah Cummings, Mr. Vernon Simms paid a visit to Northwood Elementary School to learn more about the efforts behind *Lessons In A Lunch Box*. Mr. Simms spoke for a short time with the organizers of program. The spectrum of ramifications surrounding early childhood caries as it relates to early childhood education was the focus of the conversation.

The number of lunch boxes distributed to Maryland school children now exceeds 3,000 and supporters of *Lessons In A Lunch Box* could not be more pleased. The Maryland Children's Oral Health Institute, CEO & Director of Development, Dr. Winifred J. Booker notes that while the pilot program will end this month, there are two remaining schools scheduled for the presentation. Booker believes, "the final numbers are more likely to be close to 4,000." The program, focused in Baltimore City has been truly gratifying for the many volunteers who continue to return to help with the initiative. The program has been well received and will likely be introduced around the country this fall.

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Prevention that Empowers!