



The Maryland Children's  
Oral Health Institute

## **Local Dentists, Dental Students and The Links, Incorporated Volunteer To Package Thousands of Lunch Boxes**

*The benevolence of so many continues to enhance the Lessons In A Lunch Box program.*

Owings Mills, Maryland (January 9, 2010). The second phase of the “Lessons In A Lunch Box: Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks®” program is well under way because of the benevolence of so many. Members of the Maryland Dental Society and the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society joined dental students and members of The Links, Incorporated to help package lunch boxes on Saturday. The “Lessons In A Lunch Box” initiative will be presented at elementary schools throughout the country during February. Dental students from the University of Maryland and Howard University showed up in double figures to supply the lunch boxes with the *Dental Care In A Carrot* case. The carrot shaped container, complete with a rinse cup top, includes a toothbrush, toothpaste and dental floss.

Student leaders at the University of Maryland Baltimore College of Dental Surgery are responsible for organizing their colleagues to help move the “Lessons In A Lunch Box” program forward. American Association of Women Dentists President, Sara Kramer and Community Service Chair, Karolyn Kocpca coordinated the Maryland volunteers. Student National Dental Association (SNDA) President, Yetunde Patrick, helped to coordinate volunteers from both the University of Maryland and the Howard University College of Dentistry. The President of the Howard University, SNDA chapter, Moshood Martin led the entourage of dental students from Washington, DC. The students will receive community service hour credits for giving of their time.

The Maryland Children’s Oral Health Institute Board members were also delighted to have Ms. Kendra Brown and Mrs. Linda Hairston-Taulton of The Links, Incorporated working at full steam to help get the packaging job done.

The enthusiastic volunteers packaged close to 2,000 of the 5,000 lunch boxes that will be sent to elementary schools around the country in the coming weeks. The helpers worked in a most efficiently synchronized assembly line system. The “carrot case” team opened the carrot by removing the rinse cup top. The Tutti Frutti dental floss by Sunstar Americas was inserted into its holder and a sparkle toothbrush by Plak Smacker put into the designated place inside of the case. The carrot was shut and the rinse cup top replaced securing the new contents. The “lunch box” team then completed the packaging by placing the now filled plastic carrot and a 24-gram tube of Colgate’s Tom’s of Maine toothpaste in the lunch box. Finally, the volunteers returned the lunch boxes to the shipping cartons.

The Maryland Children’s Oral Health Institute will begin sending shipments of the lunch boxes, completely stocked with carrot cases, early next week. Many dental schools will present the “Lessons In A Lunch Box” program during the 2010 National Children’s Dental Health Month celebrations throughout the month of February. Others will present the program in conjunction with the American Dental Association Give Kids A Smile Day on February 5<sup>th</sup>.

To learn more about the “*Lessons In A Lunch Box: Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks®*” program visit The Maryland Children’s Oral Health Institute website at [www.mycohi.org](http://www.mycohi.org).

*Prevention that Empowers!*

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