EVERYONE SMILES WHEN THE TOOTH TAXI ROLLS INTO TOWN!

The Tooth Taxi is a 38-foot, state-of-the-art mobile dental clinic that includes two operatory units. Launched in 2008 to respond to the oral health crisis in our state, this dental office on wheels is a direct service project of the Dental Foundation of Oregon.

For more information about organizing a Tooth Taxi visit, or to make a donation, please visit the website SmileOnOregon.org to learn more about our program and requirements, download the request form and find program manager contact information.

We thank our sponsors: The Dental Foundation of Oregon, OEA Choice Trust, Moda and our many other generous partners and individuals!

OUR KIDS NEED HELP

You see their smiles every day. It’s clear that some of the kids at your school or community center need help with their teeth. But their needs are even more serious and immediate than you might have thought.

The oral health of Oregon’s children is among the worst in the nation. The Oregon Department of Human Services estimates that 52% of children 6 to 9 years old have already had a cavity and on any given day, as many as 3,800 children in 1st to 3rd grades in Oregon are suffering from dental pain or infection. And those numbers are even higher in low-income households — the families who have the most trouble getting dental care.

*DHS 2012 Smile Survey
The Tooth Taxi brings dental care directly to children by visiting schools and other community sites. Our dental staff assess each child’s oral health and provides comprehensive care. They also provide oral health education through classroom presentations; teaching kids how to prevent tooth decay and how a healthy mouth can affect overall health. The Tooth Taxi provides comprehensive dental care, free of charge, including:

- Exams
- X-rays
- Sealants
- Cleanings
- Fillings
- Minor oral surgery

Making dental care fun

When the Tooth Taxi rolls into a school’s parking lot, kids learn how to have fun with oral health. Patients watch movies, get prizes and enjoy a unique experience. Besides getting the immediate care they need, they also learn how to prevent tooth decay.

Patients get a dental hygiene kit containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, dental floss, a mirror and a timer to encourage them to brush longer. Plus, your school or community center’s library will receive a pack of four books related to dental health.

Healthy teeth can change lives

When a child has good oral health, it means more than just not having cavities. It means that child can live his/her life without pain from tooth decay or infections that threaten their overall health.

Be a hero for the kids you love

One of the best parts about the Tooth Taxi is that it doesn’t cost anything for schools, kids or their parents. Our skilled staff provide all the dental services and education. The Tooth Taxi is fueled by donations from corporations, foundations and many individuals who care deeply about improving children’s oral health. But we need your help. Coordination provided by school or community center staff members, like you, is one of the most important parts to making the Tooth Taxi work. Because we can’t screen or treat patients without consent, we need your help getting paperwork out to parents and guardians and then getting it back before the Tooth Taxi arrives.

Thanks to the principals, teachers, nurses and support staff who coordinate Tooth Taxi programs, we can help kids get out of pain and be better learners. Take the 1st grader at Metolius Elementary who’s teachers came out to thank us after we extracted an abscessed tooth that had been causing him pain. They reported that on multiple occasions he had been unable to concentrate on his reading, making it difficult for him to succeed.

“I just wanted to take a moment to tell you how much we appreciated having the Tooth Taxi here. Through this service, I was able to make connections and build relationships with families that I have been trying to connect with all year, including youth in our Online School who tend to be more high risk and some are even homeless. These doors were opened because of this amazing and critical service that you provided to us. What a blessing to be able to offer that to our students.”

Andrea Shaver, Family Liaison, Sutherlin School District

For many of the parents, this was the first time that they had been able to access care for their children. Several of the teachers had also approached me about their concerns about their student’s dental health, they were very grateful for the help for these individual students and for the education that was provided for their classes during the week by the Tooth Taxi staff.”

Carolyn Wells, Health Specialist, Seaside School District

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1 Submit a request form and choose a primary contact person at your site to help organize the Tooth Taxi visit. This should be someone who is able to commit the time needed to prepare for the event. If your site is selected, the Tooth Taxi program manager or an OEA Choice Trust representative will work with you to coordinate a visit.

2 Identify the patients. We rely heavily on you to tell us who needs help the most! We give priority to children who have no dental insurance, have never been to a dentist or have an urgent need.

3 Send consent forms home with students. Collect and prepare Tooth Taxi forms in advance of the Tooth Taxi visit.

SCHEDULE A TOOTH TAXI VISIT