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News Release

For Immediate Release

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Local dentist volunteers more than 20 years to children

I am acknowledging Dr. James Strikwerda, DDS of Holland, for his work in our community. Dr. Strikwerda has volunteered his services to the Ottawa County Department of Public Health's (OCDPH) *Miles of Smiles* (MOS) mobile dental unit for more than 20 years. His partnership with OCDPH started at the beginning of the MOS program in 1994. He began volunteering his time as a supervisory dentist; overseeing the program, providing his expert knowledge and providing direct patient care. Doc, as we call him, no longer acts as our supervisory dentist. However, he and his wife, Dolly, stay involved with the program through their generous contributions. Their financial donations have helped qualifying low-income, uninsured children receive dental treatment who otherwise may have gone without. Dr. Strikwerda has a heart of gold and greatly helps increase access to dental health care services for Ottawa County children. Thank you so much, Doc!

"The *Miles of Smiles* mobile dental unit goes on-site, during school hours,
helping to make dental services more readily available for children."

- *Debra Bassett, RDH, BHS Oral Health Supervisor
Ottawa County Department of Public Health.*

About *Miles of Smiles* (MOS)

The MOS mobile unit provides on-site preventive and restorative dental services for qualifying low-income, uninsured, Medicaid insured, and MIChild participating children. Services are provided at schools, Head Start Centers, Ottawa County Department of Public Health clinics, migrant camps and sites for dentally underserved children. The 40 foot mobile unit is equipped with a waiting area, laboratory, two operatories, digital x-ray and a wheel chair lift.



Funding for the MOS program is provided by state grants and foundations, local foundations, donations and county support. Available dental services for children are made possible by a volunteer network of more than 100 dentists, hygienists and Grand Rapids Community College dental hygiene students. MOS has received several commendations for its innovative approach to address major health problems and increase access to direct patient care for qualifying Ottawa County children.

To determine eligibility, please call 1-800-467-5905.

To acquire an application, please visit our website at www.miOttawa.org/dental.



Suggested Tweet: Free dental services for qualifying children @miOCDPH www.miottawa.org/dental

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