

THE Neighborhood LEADER

Volume 9 No. 20

October 20 - November 2, 2007

Oral Health Impact Project Partners with School District of Philadelphia Providing Comprehensive in School Care for At Risk Students

The Oral Health Impact Project will bring quality oral health care to children at the greatest risk for dental disease in the Philadelphia School District beginning in the 2007 school year. Lack of finances, education, and transportation has led to a dental crisis resulting in 51 million hours of lost school hours per year in the United States. OHIP will provide in school dental care and a network of accessible dental career specialists. The program will also provide fun and educational programs so that children and their families will learn about dental care. Founder and CEO Dr. Lawrence Caplin, DMD said, "We not only plan to have a signifi-

cant impact in addressing the silent epidemic of dental disease but also make a difference in the future of students in the city of Philadelphia." To that end - OHIP has made a commitment to work with the School District of Philadelphia to provide internships and externships to inspire teens to pursue careers in dentistry and help dental students find creative and rewarding ways to give back to their communities.

OHIP will work with over 150 Philadelphia elementary, middle and high schools making it the largest of the group of comprehensive in school dental services providers which also include St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine and KidSmiles. Unlike similar programs which only provide preventative care - OHIP will bring a complete range of services that will also offer x rays, fillings, cleanings, sealants and more complex procedures. All ser-

vices will be provided without waiting for an appointment. There will be consistent follow-up to make sure every child gets longtime care. Brenda Taylor, the School District of Philadelphia's Associate Superintendent of Specialized Service said, "We're excited to partner with OHIP to provide comprehensive quality dental care in our District schools, as they have done in other Districts across the country. Offering in school dental services will have a major impact on one of our student's greatest health issues." Taylor said, "Because dental visits can be scary for kids - getting care in a familiar place eases that anxiety. Students also miss less class time when their treatments are being coordinated through their school." For information about the program, consent forms, and a list of participating schools - go to www.ohip.us or call 866-916-OHIP (6447).