



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CHI Joins American Dental Association in Offering Free Dental Care to Kids**

**Community Health Center Provides Oral Care Fundamental to Children's Overall Health**

**MIAMI – January 13, 2023 – [Community Health of South Florida Inc.](https://www.chisouthfl.org) (CHI), is proud to host **Give Kids A Smile Day** on **Friday, February 3, 2023**. The annual event provides free dental screenings, cleanings, vanish, sealants and giveaways to kids ages one to 16 years old.**

“On this special day, every year, we find ourselves welcoming children who have never before been to the dentist,” said Dr. Sheri Watson Hamilton, D.M.D., CHI Dental Director. “This shouldn’t be the case, since lack of dental care can leave a child in pain or even suffering with other health-related consequences.”

CHI, a nonprofit healthcare company has been a beacon of hope providing access to high quality healthcare for all regardless of insurance status, income level or background since 1971. In an effort to mitigate against the COVID-19 virus, various safety protocols have also been implemented to promote a safe, welcoming environment. As such, appointments are required.

In partnership with the American Dental Association (ADA) Foundation, the Give Kids a Smile (GKAS) program provides oral healthcare to underserved children at no cost. Since 2003, local GKAS events have helped more than six million children get access to dental services with the help of dentists and healthcare organizations across the United States.

“It is critical to a child’s overall health not to neglect routine healthcare,” said Dr. Watson-Hamilton. “Children must not be deprived of good oral health, especially because studies show it can have a positive and fundamental impact on the body’s overall health and wellbeing.”

CHI will be offering these free services for children at the following locations:

- Doris Ison Health Center 10300 SW 216 St. Miami FL 33190  
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- West Perrine Health Center 18255 Homestead Ave. Perrine FL 33157  
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- South Miami Health Center 6350 Sunset Dr. South Miami FL 33143  
8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- West Kendall Health Center 13540 SW 135<sup>th</sup> Ave. Miami FL 33186  
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
- Martin Luther King Health Center 820 SW 1<sup>st</sup>. St. Homestead FL 33030  
8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Naranja Health Center 13805 SW 264th St. Naranja FL 33032  
8:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**Appointments Required, Call (786) 272-2100**

**About Community Health of South Florida, Inc.**

For more than 50 years, CHI has been a beacon of hope providing access to high quality healthcare for all regardless of insurance status, income level or background. The non-profit federally qualified health center offers comprehensive healthcare services including primary care, pediatrics, OB/GYN, dental, urgent care, behavioral health, vision, radiology, pharmacy, telehealth, transportation and more. CHI has 14 health centers and 36 school-based sites. CHI is a recipient of the Florida Governor’s Sterling Award. It is accredited by the Joint Commission and is also accredited as a patient centered medical home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance. CHI is also designated as a behavioral health medical home. In addition, CHI is home to the Brodes H. Hartley Jr., Teaching Health Center, training the next generation of doctors in family medicine and psychiatry.

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**Editor’s note: Interviews are available upon request.**