

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

For more information, contact: *Janelle Hansen*, 308-487-3600 Ext 105 or 866-701-7173

For the 10th consecutive year, students from the University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Dentistry headed west to be a part of Dental Day. A total of 265 Children without dental insurance were treated in Sidney, Alliance, Gordon, and Chadron.

“Dental Day was a great success once again,” Janelle Hansen of Panhandle Public Health District said. “So many kids got the necessary care Dental Day provides, plus the students gained great clinical experience.” Hansen is one of the coordinators behind the annual event.

Fifty-five students studying dentistry and dental hygiene at UNMC, accompanied by six residents and 13 faculty members, participated in the Panhandle-wide event. Children were seen at Drs. Maxwell/Dr. Wilcox office in Alliance, Gordon Memorial Hospital, CAP-WN Dental Clinic in Chadron, and Summit Dental Clinic (Dr. Neal), Life Smiles of Sidney (Dr. Hlavinka) and Box Butte General Hospital in Alliance handled the dental surgical cases.

Recruiting appropriate kids and scheduling pre-screening appointments are vital to the outcome of this event. School nurses and dental office staff play a key role in completing these processes. Other dentists participating in the pre-screenings include: Dr. Jacoby, Bridgeport; Dr. Christensen and Dr. Giles, Alliance; Horizon West Dental Clinic, Crawford, Alliance and Rushville; Dr. Jensen, Oshkosh.

“Preparing for Dental Day involves many logistics,” Hansen stated. “The extensive planning process includes coordination with many players, including the participating dentists, Gordon Memorial Hospital, UNMC, BBGH and PPHD, to result in such a great number of kids receiving dental care. We are glad to be a part of a great ongoing program like Dental Day.” A big thank you also to Thrivent Finance for Lutherans for providing the noon meals for the students in Chadron and the Alliance Mission Store for providing water and pop to the Alliance site.

For additional information about dental health or Dental Days, visit www.pphd.org. The purpose of the Panhandle Public Health District is to educate the region it serves about the prevention of epidemics, spread of contagious diseases, injury, illness and disability. The district is charged with promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors. They promote the quality and accessibility of health services and protection against environmental hazards. Through education, protection and promotion of these issues, the Panhandle Public Health District believes the quality of life of the residents they serve can be greatly improved.