



Neighborhood Health Services Corporation

From the desk of:

*Rudine Smith*  
President and CEO

Mission Statement

*The Mission of the Neighborhood Health Services Corporation is to be a leader of ambulatory primary health care services within the medically underserved and uninsured populations in the communities we serve. We offer quality services in a cost effective, safe environment that is culturally diverse and responsive to the changing needs of the patient population.*

For Immediate Release

## **Neighborhood Health Services Corporation Celebrates: “Give Kids A Smile” Day**

On Friday, February 5, 2016, NHSC participated in the annual *Give Kids A Smile* (GKAS) Day. For the past thirteen (13) years, NHSC has provided dental screenings for hundreds of residents in Union County, New Jersey. GKAS program was started by the *American Dental Association* in 2003 and has been sponsored by the *New Jersey Dental Association* (NJDA) throughout the State of New Jersey since its inception. Each year, NJDA supports participating locations in the State and collaborates with Colgate and Henry Schein to provide dental supplies (tooth brushes, tooth paste, bibs, gauze, fluoride and prophylaxis angles) to assist with the dental screenings performed at the event.

Nearly one in four children aged two (2) to eleven (11) years old has untreated cavities in their baby teeth, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Many children enrolled in Medicaid receive no dental services throughout the year. GKAS is held annually to: 1) provide free and easily accessible dental services to qualifying individuals; 2) raise awareness of the epidemic of untreated dental disease occurring locally and nationally and 3) create local public and private partnerships to increase access to oral health care to solve this crisis.

Despite the inclement weather conditions, five (5) patients were registered by 8:30 am in Plainfield and a total of seventy-one children attended the event at NHSC’s two (2) Union County, New Jersey locations. Forty-nine (49) children were treated at Neighborhood Health Center Plainfield (NHCP) while twenty-two (22) children were treated at Neighborhood Health Center Elizabeth (NHCE). Activities included: issuing a *Cavity Free Certificate* to children with no dental caries, face painting, glitter tattoos, book reading and animated videos. Patient education was provided by NHSC’s managed care partners, Wanda Brauner of Amerigroup and La-Kisa Hines from United HealthCare. Additionally Amerigroup donated funds assisted with the purchase of healthy snacks, decorations and goody bags. United HealthCare donated water and snacks.

Rudine Smith, President/CEO stated that, “NHSC is happy and eager to participate in the GKAS event each year. The screenings and follow up appointments produce great clinical outcomes for good oral health.” She also gave a special “Thank you” to the *City of Plainfield* representatives for their support and attendance at the event: Carlos Sanchez, Deputy City Administrator for Economic Development; Ron West, Director of Administration Finance Health and Social Services and Dr. Atif Nazir, Health Officer. She acknowledged and thanked, Dr. Jeannine Stephenson-Buffong, NHSC’s Chief of Dentistry and the dental department for organizing the event along with support from Paulette Hussey and the Outreach Department.

NHSC invites existing and new patients to visit our website at [www.nhscnj.org](http://www.nhscnj.org) or visit us on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Neighborhood-Health-servicesCorporation/351804385006438> for upcoming events!