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For Immediate Release**Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation Awards
\$100,000 to Kids in Need of Dentistry**

DENVER – August 24, 2015 – Today, Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation (DDCOF) announced that it has awarded \$100,000 to Kids in Need of Dentistry (KIND) for the 2015-2016 school year. The funding will support KIND's Chopper Topper school-based sealant program and continued partnership with Land of Smiles, a free oral health theater program presented by Delta Dental of Colorado (DDCO).

Founded in 1912 by a group of Denver dentists, KIND provides affordable dental care to Colorado children via mobile screenings, preventive and restorative dental care, orthodontics and oral health education. The organization's Chopper Topper program is a mobile sealant program offering dental screenings, preventive dental sealants and oral health education at nearly 90 Denver metro area schools each year. Chopper Topper targets second graders and serves elementary schools that enroll 50 percent or more students who qualify for free or reduced lunch programs.

DDCOF has provided funding support to KIND since 2005. Through the continued funding, KIND plans to expand its Chopper Topper program during the 2015-2016 school year to begin serving first and third grade students. The organization has set an annual goal of reaching 5,500 patient visits, applying at least 2,000 sealants per year and screening a minimum of 5,000 children.

"We are honored to continue supporting KIND as it expands its work in Denver Public Schools," said Barbara Springer, Executive Director of, Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation. "Tooth decay is a preventable disease, but over half of all Colorado children will have untreated cavities by the time they reach kindergarten. KIND bridges the gap for children who do not have regular access to preventive dental care by bringing needed care to schools at no cost to students or their families."

DDCOF's support of KIND also includes a greater partnership with DDCO's Land of Smiles program. Land of Smiles is a free interactive oral health-focused educational theater program for pre-school and elementary school age children. Through compelling stories and hands-on play, Land of Smiles teaches children good oral health habits. During the 2015-2016 school year, KIND and its Chopper Topper program will provide dental services in conjunction with 15 Land of Smiles performances at local schools.

Visit www.kindsmlies.org to learn more about Kids in Need of Dentistry. More information on Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation and its funding initiatives can be found at www.deltadentalcofoundation.org.

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About Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation

Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation's mission is to improve the state's oral health by eradicating childhood tooth decay. Over the past 15 years, the Foundation's initiatives have included educational programs targeting low-income, high-risk families; support of dental health education for medical and dental students as well as providers; and opportunities to teach good dental habits and cavity prevention among pregnant women and children. As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Foundation works to make good dental health a community priority. A core belief is that, because dental disease is almost 100 percent preventable, efforts to improve oral health will result in a healthier Colorado overall. To learn more about Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, please visit www.deltadentalcofoundation.org.