

Media Contact:

Lisa Konen
Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation
303-889-8649, Lkonen@ddpco.com

**Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation Announces
Inaugural Oral Health Champions Awards Winners**

Three winners are recognized for their efforts to improve childhood oral health.

DENVER – July 23, 2015 - Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation (DDCOF) today hosted the inaugural presentation of Oral Health Champion Awards. The awards celebrate efforts to help eradicate cavities in Colorado’s children. Two individuals and one organization were honored at the event:

- Mike Yankovich, President and CEO of The Children’s Museum of Denver received the Oral Health Champion award. This award recognizes a person who has exercised leadership through his or her contributions to improving oral health in Colorado at the local, regional or state level.
- Cavity Free at Three Clinic at Children’s Hospital Colorado received the Mission award. This award recognizes contributions that have directly impacted our mission of improving Colorado’s oral health by eradicating childhood tooth decay.
- The Honorable John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado received the Winnable Battle Believer award. This award recognizes the enthusiasm of an individual or organization to increase the awareness of oral health as a community priority among the philanthropic, public policy and health communities. As part of Governor Hickenlooper’s acceptance, DDCOF was issued a [proclamation](#) making July 23, 2015 Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation Day.

DDCOF hosted a summer celebration for its’ partners beginning with dinner at The Fort, including the awards ceremony. Attendees were invited to a concert by DeVotchka and The Colorado Symphony at Red Rocks after the dinner.

Tooth decay is the most common chronic childhood disease in the U.S. Nearly half of Colorado’s 1.2 million children will have cavities by the time they reach kindergarten. The consequences of untreated cavities include more missed school days, behavioral problems and lower grade point averages. DDCOF works to eradicate childhood tooth decay – a nearly 100 percent preventable disease – by supporting projects and partners that increase access to dental care and address the causes of tooth decay.

For more information on about DDCOF, visit www.deltadentalcofoundation.org.

###

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 the Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, please visit www.deltadentalcofoundation.org.