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303.320.7790, 405.812.0685 (cell), [maggie@morethanpr.com](mailto:maggie@morethanpr.com)**Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation Celebrates  
Second Annual Oral Health Champions**

*Four recipients are recognized for their unique efforts to improve childhood oral health in the state.*

**DENVER – July 15, 2016** – Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation (DDCOF) has announced the winners of its second annual [Oral Health Champion Awards](#). These awards celebrate efforts to help eradicate the most common chronic disease of childhood: tooth decay.

Two organizations and two individuals have been recognized with 2016 Oral Health Champion Awards:

- **Mission Award: Denver Water.** In 2015 the public utility worked to educate the public on the benefits of community water fluoridation for oral health, a process that has been in effect for 60 years. Denver Water partnered with DDCOF to offer tours of water treatment facilities for communities that have adverse beliefs about tap water. In August 2015, Denver Water’s commissioners voted unanimously to continue to fluoridate the city’s water system, which serves nearly 1.3 million customers.
- **Winnable Battle Believer: Caring for Colorado Foundation.** Focused on population health and prevention for more than 15 years, Caring for Colorado Foundation partners with DDCOF on many innovative oral health projects. One of those projects, [Cavity Free at Three](#), is a training program to support providers in their outreach, education and preventive oral health care delivery to underserved Coloradans in medical settings.
- **Oral Health Champion: Patricia Braun, M.D., M.P.H., Denver Health.** As a pediatrician, Dr. Braun has seen first hand how poor oral health can limit children’s growth and development. Over the past eight years, Dr. Braun has partnered with DDCOF on initiatives to co-locate and integrate preventive dental hygiene services in Colorado primary care medical settings. She leads the coaching and evaluation component of DDCOF’s [Colorado Medical-Dental Integration Project](#) through the Adult and Children Center for Outcomes Research & Dissemination Science at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.
- **Winnable Battle Believer: Carolyn Anello, Worthmore Dental Clinic.** Recognizing the significant oral health needs in Denver’s refugee community,

Carolyn, a registered dental hygienist, created the Worthmore Clinic. The Worthmore Clinic provides preventive dental care through DDCOF's CO MDI Project. Barriers abound for refugees when they arrive in the U.S. and medical and dental care are top needs that are often difficult to address. Carolyn has devoted her career to breaking down these barriers, increasing access to care and improving refugee oral health.

"Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation's mission is to eradicate childhood tooth decay in Colorado," said Barbara Springer, executive director of Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation. "This is a lofty goal and one that cannot be achieved without individuals and organizations collaborating to improve access to dental care and help educate our community on the value of good oral health. We are proud to recognize the achievements of the 2016 Oral Health Champions."

For more than 15 years, DDCOF has worked to improve childhood oral health in Colorado by supporting projects and partners that increase access to dental care and address the causes of tooth decay – an almost completely preventable disease. The Oral Health Champion Awards allow DDCOF to recognize and continue to support innovative oral health contributions occurring across the state.

For more information on Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation, visit [www.deltadentalcofoundation.org](http://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 has been solely funded by Delta Dental of Colorado. Its 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](http://www.deltadentalcofoundation.org).