



The Children's Oral Health Institute



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DTA, DTA FOUNDATION TEAMED UP TO PRESENT LESSONS IN A LUNCH BOX®

Annandale, Virginia **(February 9, 2024)**. The Dental Trade Alliance (DTA) and the Dental Trade Alliance Foundation (DTA Foundation) teamed up with oral health professionals to present the *Lessons in a Lunch Box*® program to over 300 children at Braddock Elementary School. Both DTA, CEO, Gregory Chavez and DTA Foundation, Executive Director, Sarah Miller along with staff roll up their sleeves to help present the oral health education initiative. Miller said, "The DTA Foundation is proud to have provided the seed funding for *Lessons in a Lunch Box*® in 2007. The many successes that have been achieved *Sweet 16* years later is exactly the point. A 2022 dental school applicant for example, documented exposure to the program while in elementary school, according to the American Dental Education Association. These are the kind of triumphs we want to see happen through the support our organizations provides to outreach initiatives."

Volunteers from across the dental profession and local community joined the DTA and their Foundation. Dr. Wilson Aguilar-Garcia, Dr. Sameera Meyer and their staff from Sonrisas & Smiles Dental Care, Dr. Yuliana Alzate and Dr. Winifred Booker participated in the program. The event was coordinated by Sherry Holland Senter, a teacher at Braddock Elementary School and Education Resource Consultant for COHI.

The 2nd and 3rd grade children, once seated at cafeteria tables, learned about brushing, flossing and meal portions. The one hour presentation included the "Brushing with Charlie Brown video." Volunteers explained the exclusive lunch box and carrot case. They tag-teamed to translate English to Spanish, and offered a *show and tell* description of the braille ligands on the carrot case that read, "Dental Care in a Carrot." Thrilled children were encouraged to look into the reflective lunch box label that smiles back when you smile, and reads, "See Yourself Becoming a Dentist."

Visit www.mycohi.org to learn about presenting the program and about volunteer opportunities.

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