



The Children's Oral
Health Institute

Presents

Lessons In Lunch Box:
Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks™



April 15, 2013

Objectives

Understanding,

- I. The origin of the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program
- II. How the DTA Foundation funding made a difference in the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program
- III. The current status of the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program
- IV. The future of the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program

I. The origin of the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program

The idea for this program was conceived while on a shopping trip to Walmart to find a useful birthday gift for an 8 year-old nephew. Learn more about what the history of this shopping expedition led to in the power point presentation presented to you today. You will also be able to download it from our website at www.mycohi.org.

II. How the DTA Foundation funding made a difference in the *Lessons In A Lunch Box: Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snack™* program.

- 1) The 2007 DTAF funding **paid for the first 5,000 lunch boxes and dental carrot cases orders**. The acquisition of these finances also contributed the second and third 5,000 piece orders.
 - 2) The grant award continues to **encourage others corporations and organizations to support** the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program.
 - 3) It has helped to **improve the lesson plan guide** provided to teachers when the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program is presented and transform it into a more comprehensive document, *Code Red: The Oral Health Crisis in Your Classroom*.
 - 4) The DTA Foundation funding **continues to make a difference in the dental education of student dentists and hygienists** via the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program, including:
 - Dental and dental hygiene students in 22 states continue to **learn alternative ways to teach oral health prevention**, including good dietary behaviors and dental hygiene practices, in both classroom and community settings. Pre-dental students in Maryland have as well participated in the program.
 - Student doctors of dental medicine **continue to be made aware of the tragic oral health circumstances** that took the lives of Maryland's 12 year-old Deamonte Driver and Mississippi's 6 year-old Alexander Collander.
 - Young student dentists and other volunteers **witness the excitement of school children because of the attention given to them during these presentations** - children who more often live in poverty and attend Title One schools. They see and take part in the nearly uncontrollable jubilation of some of the most economically deprived and most grateful elementary school children in America.
- [3/14/08 Dental Students Excited to Volunteer Support for Elementary School Oral Health Program](#)
- This first \$25,000 continues to help The Children's Oral Health Institute **sensitize student dentists to the unmet oral health care needs of children and adults** because of the access to care challenged faced by our profession.

- Dental students, invited officials, and other guest **see and hear firsthand accounts of the pain and suffering children experience from untreated tooth decay** during the presentations of the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program. On October 1, 2008, Congressman Cummings asked the ~ 300 children in the cafeteria at Cecil Elementary School to raise their hands if they ever had a sick tooth. You could not see the hands that were *not* raised.
- Students are **encouraged to be innovative** and think outside of the box.
- All dental students must take a six question survey prior to participating in the program. They download it from our website. This **exercise offers them a different human perspective of the government Medical Assistance Program**. They interact with the patient population and community of families who are often the recipients of this insurance. As a result they confront the opportunity to gain a compassionate appreciation for the differences in accepting this form insurance versus private pay insurance.
- The Children's Oral Health Institute is able to offer dental and dental hygiene students, high school and middle school student's community service learning opportunities. These **young people are able to obtain needed student service learning hour requirements for graduation**.
- Dental students and community dentists have **opportunities to encourage elementary school children to consider careers in the fields of dentistry, including corporate dentistry** during the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program presentations.

- 5) The grant given to The Children's Oral Health Institute has **helped school administrators, principals, teachers, nurses, local policy makers and national legislators understand the eminence value of the comprehensive learning opportunities offered through oral health education**. These opportunities are communicated through *Lessons In A Lunch Box* and the *Code Red* curriculum resource reference. They include the incorporation of oral health education in mathematics, reading, spelling, science, music, history, health and nutrition lessons.

Many of these leaders have witnessed and gained a better appreciation and respect for the impact poor oral health has on learning and behaviors in the classroom, at home and in society. Some acknowledge their appreciation of the *Lessons In Lunch Box* program from personal experiences. These passionate personal stories are often revealed during the presentations. As a result these leaders have gone on to support advocacy for the inclusion of oral health education in public school curriculum.

- 6) In addition to offering dental and dental hygiene students, high and middle school students, civic organizations and individuals volunteer opportunities, the \$25,000 DTAF seed money provided The Children's Oral Health Institute a chance to offer a mother and son recently released from prison **approximately 5 weeks of temporary employment**. The pair packaged the dental carrot case that is included in the lunch box with toothpaste, toothbrush and dental floss.

- 7) The Children's Oral Health Institute was **able to use the *Lesson In A Lunch Box* program as an asset in the first discussions** with the Maryland State Department of Education when organized dentistry made the appeal in 2008 to incorporate oral health education in the curriculum.
[10/1/08 Maryland Dentists Recommend Oral Health Curriculum](#)
- 8) The grant helped The Children's Oral Health Institute acquire **5,000 more lunch boxes in 2009**.
- 9) The grant is responsible for the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* **program being presented to 10,000 youth by 2010**.
[9/11/08 Lessons in a Lunch Box Program Introduced Nationally](#)
- 10) The grant helped us **acquire yet another 5,000 lunch boxes** in 2011.
- 11) The *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program and the *Code Red: The Oral Health Crisis in Your Classroom* initiative were accepted into the U.S. Office of Minority Health-led (OMH) National Partnership for Action (NPA) to End Disparities in 2011.
- 12) By 2011 knowledge of The Children's Oral Health Institute reached beyond US Shores. The DTAF grant **helped to give international visibility to the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program**. The Maryland Children's Oral Health changed their name by dropping Maryland.
- 13) We feel this program **helped to fuel the oral health education movement in Maryland**. We think the lunch box has help to make a more visual impact on the need. The Oral Health Education- Certification and Monitoring bill was signed into Maryland law on May 22, 2012.
[5/22/12 Oral Health Advocates March Into May Jubilant](#)
- 14) The *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program **has reached 22 states and 15,000 school children** in 2012 because of the initial funding provided in 2007.
- 15) The Children's Oral Health Institute met MSDE superintendent, Dr. Lillian M. Lowery to discuss advancing oral health education in Maryland public schools. The presentation included the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program materials. Original funding from the DTAF **grant helped to make this opportunity possible to move efforts further to get oral health education incorporated in the curriculum in 2013**.
[11/4/12 Positive Reception for Oral Health Education Paradigm](#)
- 16) Finally, we feel that with the ability to expand and gain more exposure, the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program offered **a renewed coalescence to organized dentistry in the state of Maryland**. This made stronger relationship between the Maryland Dental Society, the Maryland State Dental Association, the Maryland Academy of General Dentistry, the Maryland Dental Hygiene Association and The Children's Oral Health Institute has helped to keep attention on the need identify innovative ways to improved access to oral health care and educate families. The initial financial resource from the DTAF has helped to led to:
 - The March 2013 National Governors Association [Case Study, Maryland Passes Oral Health Education Legislation Through Collaborative Approach](#)
<http://statepolicyoptions.nga.org/casestudy/maryland-passes-oral-health-education-legislation-through-collaborative-approach>

- The *Pathway to Help Get Oral Health Education Legislation Passed in Your State* © by the COHI, MDS, MSDA, MAGD and MDHA. This roadmap may prove beneficial to others. Visit the COHI website at www.mycohi.org to download this document.

III. The current status of the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program

- January 2013 The Children's Oral Health Institute presented the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program, the *Code Red: The Oral Health Crisis In Your Classroom* initiative and other oral health teaching materials to Maryland's 24 district school superintendents. 15 of these districts have expressed interest, via our follow up survey in having our oral health education programs offered to their students this fall.
- February 2013 The Children's Oral Health Institute received \$10,000 grant award for the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program from Delta Dental.
- March 2013 The NGA released a Case Study referencing the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program and *Code Red: The Oral Health Crisis in Your Classroom* initiative.
- April 2013 The Children's Oral Health Institute continues to seek grant funding and financial resources to further expand the outreach of the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program.

IV. The future of the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program

The future of the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program is dependent upon our continued ability to obtain financial support. We look forward to continuing to expand this program nationally. Ultimately The Children's Oral Health Institute would like to identify nonprofit organization in other states that focus on oral health education and empower them with the information and resources necessary to execute the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program independently.