



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Academy of General Dentistry Foundation and The Children's Oral Health Institute to Partner**

*Plan developed to expand the Lessons In A Lunch Box program throughout the United States.*

Owings Mills, Maryland. (March 11, 2014) The Academy of General Dentistry Foundation (AGDF) and The Children's Oral Health Institute (COHI) have solidified plans to work together to expand the *Lessons In A Lunch Box: Healthy Teeth Essentials & Facts About Snacks* program throughout the United States. At the invitation of the AGDF, the two organizations came together during the Chicago Dental Society Midwinter Meeting last month to discuss the oral health education program and formulate an action plan. AGDF Board President, Dr. Paula Jones, AGD President, Dr. Linda J. Edgar and Foundation Board members wholeheartedly welcomed the gathering and agreed that the program aligns with the Foundation's mission and goals.

Dr. Vincent C. Mayher, Jr. and Dr. Paula Jones were first introduced to *Lessons In A Lunch Box* in 2008 while AGD President and President-Elect, respectively. Dr. Mayher currently serves as the Outreach Committee Chair of the AGDF. During the meeting led by the two leaders, Mayher said, "the AGD can put boots on the ground," to expand the outreach of *Lessons In A Lunch Box*. Dr. Leslie E. Grant, the COHI Director of Advocacy and Outreach stated, "this is most rewarding for this grassroots nonprofit that has sustained the program with corporate support and hands on from dental schools and student dentists, community dentists and hygienists and a host of other volunteers. "Boots on the ground and sleeves rolled up" by the AGD members and others in organized dentistry will deploy a mammoth collaboration to offer oral health education that will impact Title One elementary schools throughout the nation.

AGD Foundation Board member, Dr. Ivan Lugo offered enthusiastic corporate engagement and support through Proctor and Gamble to expand the presence of the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program at the upcoming AGD Annual Conference. Dr. Grant and Dr. Winifred Booker, CEO & Director of Development of the COHI will discuss the program with members concurrently during the oral cancer screenings at annual convention in Detroit on **Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2pm to 5pm and Saturday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 2pm at the Cobo Convention Center**. An area dedicated to this initiative will be available for AGD members to visit and learn more about how to register for the program and how it is designed to be presented in elementary schools. The Foundation says, "AGD constituent leaders will be encouraged to get involved with the program by advocating in their local communities."

The COHI will demonstrate the *Lessons In A Lunch Box* program in presentations to elementary-age school children who attend the oral cancer screening portion of the convention with adults. The nonprofit anticipates distributing approximately 100 of the lunch boxes to children during the event.

***For more information contact Ms. M. Mays at [foundation@agd.org](mailto:foundation@agd.org) at and Ms. C. Veney at The Children's Oral Health Institute or visit our websites at [www.agdf.org](http://www.agdf.org) and [www.mycohi.org](http://www.mycohi.org).***

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