



## **For Immediate Release**

### **Dentists Support Halloween School Supply Drive and Literacy Festival**

Baltimore, Maryland. October 31, 2009. Local dentists supported the Halloween School Supply and Literacy Festival on Saturday afternoon held at Barclay Elementary School. The Maryland State Dental Association and the Maryland Dental Society provided toothbrushes, toothpaste and dental floss for both children and adults at the Halloween event. The dentists supplied brochures with brushing and flossing instructions by Colgate-Palmolive. The Maryland Children's Oral Health Institute furnished copies of the newly designed *Project Clean Toothbrush: Important Tips to Help Prevent the Spread of Flu Germs*© flyers. The community advocates and educators took advantage of the opportunity offered by the free community event to fortify school supplies for the neighborhood youth. The oral health professionals used the Halloween day forum to reinforce the importance of regular brushing and flossing and consuming sweet treats in moderation.

*Project Clean Toothbrush: Important Tips to Help Prevent the Spread of Flu Germs*© flyers were distributed during the scheduled 1 to 3pm event. The printable flyer and poster, complete with illustrations that offer ways to clean, decontaminate, disinfect and sanitize your toothbrush can be downloaded from The Maryland Children's Oral Health Institute, the Maryland State Dental Association and the Maryland Dental Society and websites. The captive Halloween audience was offered some practical ways to avoid the spread of germs that can cause the flu via the flyer. The handy give-away encourages families to regularly follow some of the basic routines that can make the difference in staying healthy year round. These practices are especially important to promote in the wake of the potentially fatal swine flu pandemic that has already claimed lives. The dental organizations will work closely together to help educate children and families throughout the state about good dental hygiene and flu prevention measures.

The Greater Homewood Community Corporation and the Experience Corps sponsored the Halloween School Supply Drive and Literacy Festival. Children living in the Barclay Community were encouraged to come dressed as storybook characters. The two organizations collected school supplies and dental hygiene products prior to the event. Donations were also collected on site. Fun activities including coloring, reading, singing and exploration were all a part of the festivities.

Mrs. Sherry Holland Senter, Experience Corps Field Manager continues to be dedicated to mission of the Greater Homewood Community Corporation by volunteering and helping to coordinate events like the Halloween School Supply Drive and Literacy Festival. Mrs. Senter stated that "Improving education and supporting youth development through these types of programs supports the vital work necessary for advancing economic development and community revitalization." Mrs. Senter also serves on the board of The Maryland Children's Oral Health Institute.

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*For more information visit The Maryland Children's Oral Health Institute at [www.mycohi.org](http://www.mycohi.org), the Maryland State Dental Association at [www.msda.com](http://www.msda.com) and Maryland Dental Society at [www.themds.org](http://www.themds.org). Visit [www.flu.maryland.gov](http://www.flu.maryland.gov) to learn more about flu protection and prevention.*

*Prevention that Empowers!*