

NEWS RELEASE

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National Children's Oral Health Foundation®

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LOCAL VOLUNTEERS JOIN AMERICA'S TOOTHFAIRY SMILE DRIVE TO COLLECT ORAL CARE PRODUCTS FOR CHILDREN

Northfield – Designed to raise awareness of the importance of oral health and collect oral care products for underserved children, the America's ToothFairy Smile Drive is being held for several weeks in March, led by the Rice County Early Childhood Dental Network in both Northfield and Faribault.

America's ToothFairy Smile Drive® is about two things: raising awareness about children's dental health and collecting dental care supplies for children in need. Many people are shocked to learn that tooth decay is the most prevalent childhood disease in the U.S and children need basic prevention tools, toothbrushes and toothpaste, to protect their smiles.

Community members are invited to drop their donations of kid toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, and mouth rinse at several locations in the county. In Northfield, locations are KYMN Radio and the Youth Wing of the NCRC. In Faribault, locations are at KDHL Radio and the Community Center. Marked boxes will be available at each location until March 30th.

The items donated will be delivered to both community food shelves, Community Schools, Head Starts, and any organization in either community that wishes to promote good oral health care for young children in need.

Community members donating to the Smile Drive are encouraged to share their experience by snapping a photo and using the hashtag #SmileDrive on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

For more information about the Smile Drive and how community members can participate, contact Ellen Haefner , Rice Co. Early Childhood Dental Network Coordinator, at 507-664-3654.

"We are so grateful that caring individuals and volunteer groups across the country are helping ensure children receive the oral care products they need through the America's ToothFairy Smile Drive," said Jill Malmgren, America's ToothFairy Executive Director. "The participation of the Rice County Early Childhood Dental Network will help promote healthy smiles for local children while providing youth the tools they need to prevent the pain and embarrassment associated with tooth decay."

About America's ToothFairy: National Children's Oral Health Foundation

As a resource provider, America's ToothFairy: National Children's Oral Health Foundation (NCOHF) increases access to oral health care by supporting non-profit clinics and community partners delivering education, prevention and treatment services for underserved children. Since its inception in 2006, America's ToothFairy has distributed more than \$17 million in donated products, educational materials and financial grants to improve oral health outcomes for children and youth in need. For more information, visit www.AmericasToothFairy.org.

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