



**Erie County Health Department**  
*An Accredited Public Health Department*

**Erie County Community Health Center**  
*A Federally Qualified Health Center*

**Peter T. Schade, MPH, REHS**  
*Health Commissioner*



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Erie County Health Department Provides \$15,469 in Free Dental Care to 49 Children During Give Kids A Smile Event**

**Sandusky, Ohio — March 3, 2026 —** The Erie County Health Department (ECHD) proudly participated in the national Give Kids A Smile initiative on February 24, providing free dental care to 49 children in our community.

Through this annual program, ECHD delivered a total of \$15,469 in no-cost dental services, helping remove financial barriers and ensure children receive essential oral health care.

“Access to preventive dental care is critical to a child’s overall health and success,” said Nicole Ziegler, RN, Chief Health Services Officer. “By participating in Give Kids A Smile, we were able to provide nearly \$16,000 in essential dental services in a single day. Events like this not only address immediate oral health needs, but they also help families connect to ongoing care and build lifelong healthy habits.”

Services provided during the event included:

- 49 comprehensive dental exams
- 49 prophylaxis (cleanings)
- 49 fluoride varnish applications
- 37 dental sealants
- 1 panoramic X-ray
- 27 two-bitewing X-rays
- 5 four-bitewing X-rays
- 2 periapical films
- 5 silver diamine fluoride (SDF) treatments
- 1 resin restoration
- 1 two-surface posterior restoration

Give Kids A Smile is designed to improve access to dental care for children who may otherwise go without preventive and restorative treatment. Untreated dental issues can lead to pain, infection, missed school days, and long-term health complications.



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“Oral health is a critical component of overall health, especially for children,” said Peter T. Schade, Erie County Health Commissioner. “Events like Give Kids A Smile demonstrate the power of prevention and the importance of ensuring every child — regardless of circumstance — has access to quality dental care. By removing barriers and delivering services directly to families, we are investing in healthier futures for our community.”

Dental sealants and fluoride treatments, in particular, play an important role in preventing cavities and protecting children’s teeth during their most cavity-prone years. Early detection through comprehensive exams also allows providers to intervene before minor issues become major concerns.

The Erie County Health Department remains committed to expanding access to care and reducing health disparities across the region. Community-based initiatives like Give Kids A Smile are one example of how ECHD continues to meet families where they are and ensure children receive the care they need to thrive.

### **About the Erie County Health Department**

The Erie County Health Department’s mission is to promote and improve the health and safety of the communities and environment within Erie County while preventing disease through essential public health services. The Erie County Community Health Center is part of the Erie County Health Department and operates eight convenient locations across Erie, Huron, and Ottawa counties, ensuring accessible primary care, dental, and behavioral health services throughout the region.

For more information about Health Department or Health Center services, visit [www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com](http://www.ErieCoHealthOhio.com).

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