



**DELTA DENTAL OF VIRGINIA FOUNDATION SUPPORTS TIDEWATER INITIATIVES, AWARDS \$61,500**  
*Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula accepts \$5,000 Smart Smiles® check.*

**HAMPTON, Va. (June 12, 2019)** – In a continued effort to achieve its mission to improve the oral health of Virginia residents, the Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation awarded \$411,500 this year in total grants to fund research, educational outreach and various programs designed to improve the overall oral health of uninsured or underinsured Virginians. Many of the grants focus on key areas of need throughout the Commonwealth – the state's youth, the uninsured and medically underserved population, and dental professionals in training.

In Tidewater, ten organizations received Smart Smiles grants totaling \$61,500 to support oral health initiatives throughout the region.

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Program</i>
<b>Boys and Girls Club of the Virginia Peninsula</b>	Smart Smiles At the Dentist program
<b>Chesapeake Care Clinic</b>	Support part-time hygienist
<b>Dr. Richard F. Clark HELP Clinics</b>	Expansion of dental services
<b>Northern Neck - Middlesex Free Health Clinic</b>	Support VCU dental students
<b>Old Dominion University</b>	Dental equipment for ODU School of Dental Hygiene
<b>Olde Towne Medical and Dental Center</b>	Dental supplies and equipment
<b>Olivet Medical Ministry</b>	Expansion of dental treatment
<b>Park Place Health and Dental Clinic</b>	Support VCU dental students
<b>Portsmouth Community Health Center</b>	Dental services
<b>Western Tidewater Free Clinic</b>	Dental supplies

Pictured are supporters and representatives of the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula accepting a check for \$5,000 in support of its Smart Smiles At the Dentist program, an initiative of oral health programs for families who lack dental insurance, or who qualify for Medicaid or Family Access to Medical Insurance Security (FAMIS). Recently, that support helped a local seven-year-old named Shawn who came to the Club’s program with six cavities, two teeth that needed to be extracted and he required space maintainers. Due to the nature of his decay and his age, an oral surgeon was required for the extractions. Without Smart Smiles, Shawn’s mother would not have been able to afford the dental work provided by the clinic. “Many kids like Shawn depend on the Smart Smiles program, and we are proud that we can be a part of keeping their mouths healthy,” said Michele Benson, chief development officer. “Thanks to Delta Dental of Virginia, we treat over 200 kids every year.”



*Pictured: Thomas Cross, Legislative Aide, Senator Monty Mason; Theresa Parker, Legislative Assistant, Senator Mamie E. Locke; Mamie E. Locke, Senator; David E. Yancey, Delegate; Chris Pyle, VP of Marketing & Government Relations, Delta Dental of Virginia; Hal Smith, President & CEO, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula; Noelle Mangus, Smart Smiles Coordinator; Walida Hooker, GHR Unit Director; Tempestt Boone, Legislative Assistant, Delegate Marcia Price; Michele Benson, Chief Development Officer, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula*

Delta Dental of Virginia believes in the power of a healthy smile and, together with these organizations, is improving oral health in Virginia and strengthening our communities. “Positive outcomes in oral health and wellness are best accomplished from within these close-knit communities and these inspiring organizations share our enthusiasm for improving the health of Virginia’s underserved,” said Frank Lucia, president and CEO of Delta Dental of Virginia. “That is why the Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation is passionate about providing the vital resources these organizations need to serve target populations through creative and effective programs.”

The Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation has provided more than \$4.6 million in total funding to 74 organizations throughout the past seven years. [Click here](#) to see the full list of 2019 Smart Smiles in the Community grant recipients and [read more](#) about what these organizations are doing to improve oral health in the communities they serve.

**About Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation**

*Delta Dental of Virginia Foundation was founded in 2012 by Delta Dental of Virginia to help improve the oral health and, subsequently, overall health of all Virginians. The foundation focuses its support on initiatives that improve oral health through improved access to oral care, oral health education and oral health research. For more information, visit [DeltaDentalVA.com/ddvafoundation.aspx](http://DeltaDentalVA.com/ddvafoundation.aspx).*