

Redmond dentists donate time to bring smiles to kids in need



Dr. Kevin Coome, right, and dental assistant Janelle Parker, with a smiling patient.



Dr. Gregory Jones, left, and dental assistant Mckel Stumph, and a young patient take a short break on Friday morning.



Dr. Brook Derenzy, left, and dental assistant Brooke Varcoe, treat a teenage patient on Friday.

Redmond dentists provided thousands of dollars worth of free services last week as part of Give Kids a Smile Day, a national initiative to focus attention on the epidemic of untreated oral disease among disadvantaged children.

On Friday morning, Redmond dentists Dr. Kevin Coombe and Dr. Gregory Jones and their staff treated 19 children, from 7 to 17. They did cleanings, fillings and a root canal. All told, the clinic provided \$9,700 in treatment that morning.

Last year the clinic provided about \$8,000 in services

on Give Kids a Smile Day.

"It keeps getting bigger each time. We plan to do this every year," said Kerianne Bethers, office manager for Dr. Coombe and Dr. Jones.

She said there is a great need for dental services for disadvantaged kids in Central Oregon. Patients needing additional services are referred to the Kempel Clinic, a local volunteer dentistry program for kids that area dentists donate time to.

Across town, Dr. Brook Derenzy and his staff saw three teenage patients and installed a crown, donated

by Redmond Dental Lab, and provided fillings and cleanings. Dr. Derenzy said his patients hadn't seen a dentist since they were toddlers. His practice donated more than \$3,500 in services.

Give Kids a Smile Day is held each February and provides free oral health education, screening and treatment services to children from low-income families across the country. In 2006, nearly 40,000 dental professionals and volunteers provided free educational, preventive and restorative dental services to over 500,000 children from low income families at 2,000 locations.

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