

New Dental Clinic Opens in North End Elementary School as part of Invest Saint Paul Dental Sealant Initiative

(Saint Paul) - Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman today announced the opening of a new dental clinic in North End Elementary School that will provide students at the school access to preventive dental care. With the opening of the North End site, Children's Dental Services now has permanent clinics in elementary schools in all 4 Invest Saint Paul areas.

“Access to dental care is crucial to the health and well-being of Saint Paul families. Over 350 children benefited from this initiative this past summer and we're well on our way to meeting our goal of reaching 3000 children within a year,” Coleman said. “I'm especially pleased that the School District has recognized the value of our efforts and has demonstrated their commitment by providing permanent space for clinics in four of the most underserved areas of the city.”

The Invest Saint Paul Dental Sealant initiative was launched in June, in partnership with the Smiles Across Minnesota coalition, to provide low-income and uninsured children access to preventive dental services. Dental decay is the most prevalent chronic childhood illness affecting children in Minnesota and across the nation. Eighty percent of the disease is expressed in 25 percent of the children, typically low-income and uninsured children. This innovative initiative brings care directly to children on-site at schools, in libraries, and at community centers, eliminating barriers in accessing care for low-income families. Over 350 children received dental care in Saint Paul libraries and community centers this past summer and the initiative is on-track to provide care to over 3000 Saint Paul children within its first year.

Smiles Across Minnesota is a coalition of dedicated organizations and individuals, including Delta Dental of MN, Children's Dental Services, Greater Twin Cities United Way, and 3M ESPE, committed to improving the oral health of Minnesota children.