

You Can Help!

"Many HANDS make light work."

- The Proverbs of John Heywood (1546)

Give

Your tax deductible gifts and contributions go directly to provide dental care to children in St. Lucie County.

Donate

Dental supplies and tangible resources are utilized to support daily operations.

Volunteer

HANDS needs dentists, hygienists and support staff that care about the dental health of our children to volunteer their time and services.

Parent Testimony

"I just wanted to say thank you to the Pediatric Dental Program and its supporters. I was shocked to find out my daughter had 2 cavities. We had no dental insurance. Now, thanks to HANDS, we have her going every 6 months for checkups and brushing twice a day!"

Awards and Recognition

2011 Florida Children's Week
Community Innovation Award Recipient

**To find out if HANDS can visit your
child's school, call us at 772-344-2541**



Clinic Site: Garden City Early Learning
Academy Community Annex 18
PO Box 12788 • Ft. Pierce, FL 34979
Phone: 772.344.2541 • 772.344.2544
Email: info@handsofslc.org
Website: www.handsofslc.org

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Pediatric Dental Program



CONNECTING OUR CHILDREN TO DENTAL CARE

About Hands

HANDS Clinic is a project of the St. Lucie County Health Access Network, Inc. a 501(c) (3) organization.* We opened our doors in October 2010 to provide a spectrum of services to the uninsured.

Mission

The core mission of the HANDS Pediatric Dental Program is to provide primary, secondary, and preventative oral health care services to children in St. Lucie County.

- 25% of children in St. Lucie County live in poverty.
- Florida ranks 48th in the U.S. for dental care for children.
- Dental disease is the most prevalent disease among children and is 100% preventable.



Results

Dental cavities is the most prevalent childhood disease in the US. In our first year with more than 4,000 children screened here are the results:

- 30% of children had one or more cavities. 1 in 12 needed treatment for sites of decay in their mouth.
- 28% of children needed preventive care
- 4% of children needed emergency dental care
- Over 51% of children screened needed follow-up dental care
- During screening, HANDS identified hundreds of children who did not have a toothbrush, never brushed their teeth, or had oral abscesses.

Our Goal

Many children are in need of dental attention but lack the requisite financial resources to obtain optimal care. The lack of basic dental services for children has a negative impact on school readiness and capacity to learn.

In order to accomplish our mission, the program provides:

- Dental health screenings
- Education and oral hygiene
- Identification of high risk students
- Referral & coordination of services

Mobile Pediatric Dental Program

The HANDS Pediatric Dental Program helps children receive dental care, dental treatment, and education on how to accomplish proper oral health.

We provide screenings and education at elementary schools and preschools with the Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County. Dental screenings include an oral examination and dental history. These results are documented and a letter is sent home to parents referring them to a dental provider for FREE. In addition, we follow up with a phone call to the parents and to the directors at the preschools to make sure these children are being treated.

