



SEACOAST HEALTHY GRINS

A program of Families First Health & Support Center

ANNUAL REPORT

SCHOOL YEAR 2016-2017

JUNE 2017

‘Looks Like the Alphabet’

That’s what Families First Dental Director Dr. Skip Homicz said after Seacoast Healthy Grins hygienist Cynthia Bishop added another certification. She is now Cynthia Bishop, RDH, BS, CPHDH.

That’s RDH for Registered Dental Hygienist. BS for Bachelor of Science (in education and training). And CPHDH for Certified Public Health Dental Hygienist.

Why is this last certification so important? New Hampshire’s Certified Public Health Dental Hygienists — there are about 50 in the state — are now licensed to apply Interim Therapeutic Restorations to children’s teeth.

These act either as a sealant or as a temporary means to slow the process of decay until the child is able to receive care in a dental office. CPHDHs are also licensed to apply silver diamine fluoride, which can arrest the decay process. Both of these measures are significant because the children who receive in-school services through Seacoast Healthy Grins are the same children who may never make it to a dental office.

Nurses at the schools served by Seacoast Healthy Grins know that if they notice that a child has a serious mouth or tooth problem, they can ask Cindy to make a quick visit to the school to assess the child’s situation. Since Seacoast Healthy Grins is administered through Families First, Cindy can arrange for a same-day appointment at Families First Dental Center if needed. Cindy sees many of the same children year after year in school, so she can follow the care the children receive.

School-based dental programs have been in the spotlight this year! NHPR aired a segment in February after visiting Seacoast Healthy Grins at Little Harbour School. Following that, NH Chronicle (WMUR) ran a piece in

Please see other side for a list of the financial supporters, dental professionals, in-kind donors and school personnel who make Seacoast Healthy Grins possible.



Dr. Skip Homicz poses with Cynthia Bishop after she was named Hygienist of the Year by the NH Dental Society.

June covering a day in the life of a school-based dental hygienist. Links to both can be found by searching “tooth fairy” and “Miss Cindy.”

In other news this year, Cindy Bishop was also appointed New Hampshire’s Dental Hygiene Liaison for the National Center on Early Childhood Health and Wellness and was named Dental Hygienist of the Year awarded by the NH Dental Society. All in all, it has been a rewarding year!

Seacoast Healthy Grins 2016-2017 school year

1,940 children in **116** classrooms received oral health education, toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss.

1,516 students participated in free dental screenings.

106 children received in-school dental cleanings, fluoride treatments, and one-to-one oral hygiene education — and sealants if appropriate.

95 students were referred to a dentist for further treatment.

Families First

support for families...health care for all

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Seacoast Healthy Grins is a program of Families First Health and Support Center, the community health center serving the Seacoast region, based in Portsmouth, NH. Families First provides a broad range of health and family services to all, regardless of ability to pay.

For more information:

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Portsmouth Regional Hospital is proud to be the lead corporate sponsor of Seacoast Healthy Grins.

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Amy Doherty, RDH
John Fitzsimons, DMD
Skip Homicz, DDS
Samantha Maillet, CDA
Hope Saltmarsh, RDH, M. Ed., Manager,
NH DPHS Oral Health Program
NH Technical Institute

School and Program Staff

We thank all staff at these schools, particularly those named here:

Community School (Rose Bradder)
Dondero School (Cindy Hart, RN)
Greenland Central School (Stacy Gosselin)
Hampton Head Start (Alison Blum)
Little Clippers (Carla Frank)
Little Harbour School (Lisa Carchidi, RN)
New Franklin School (Barbara Pamboukes, RN)
Newington Public School (Jackie Thompson, RN)
Portsmouth Head Start (Kris Lang)
Portsmouth Middle School
(Kathy Birse-Siegel, Kathy Casperson, RN, Patty Dube)
Robert Lister Academy
Seabrook Elementary School (Mary MacInnes, RN)
Seacoast Community School (Lori Parsons)
Seabrook Head Start (Keri Burt)

In-Kind Contributors

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