
MEDIA STATEMENT | OFFICIAL

To: All KDHF Stakeholders & Interested Parties

Issued by: Kids Dental Home Foundation Team

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KIDS DENTAL HOME FOUNDATION PERFORMS 14 PRO BONO SURGERIES TO KIDS WITH ECC

Pretoria: *"Between 2007 and 2017, an estimated 64.6 million children younger than 36 months were affected by ECC, Early Childhood Caries. The number of affected children aged 36 to 71 months was estimated to be 173.5 million". <https://bit.ly/eccprevalence>*

"In South Africa, the national prevalence rate of ECC is 60% among children under 6 years of age" [\[1\]](#)

ECC is an aggressive type of tooth decay prevalent amongst the younger children and it has become a major oral health problem, constituting a serious public health problem, not only in South Africa but worldwide, mainly in socially disadvantaged populations. It remains to be one of the most common childhood diseases. It is however, one of the largely preventable diseases.

On Friday, 31st March 2023, Kids Dental Home Foundation collaborated with Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital, to present the 2nd Annual Pro Bono Dental Surgeries 2023 in an attempt to help alleviate the extensively growing statistics of children with Early Childhood Caries. This collaboration has yielded unprecedented results with fourteen (14) surgeries successfully delivered on the day benefiting 14 children between the ages of 2 and 9. This is 40% increase from 2022, a year later where 10 children were treated leading to a total of 24 surgeries, offered pro bono publico ('for the public good') by KDHF.

Of course, this great work wouldn't have been attained without the support of our amazing volunteers who came from various provinces, including Gauteng, North West and Limpopo. We had dental surgeons, dental therapists, dental assistants, anaesthetists, nurses, care givers and counsellors who took time off from their normal duties and busy practices to dedicate their resources and expertise, working as one big team towards one common goal. Indeed, "when two or three agree on a common purpose, nothing is impossible."

In his address during the opening, Adv. Boyce Mkhize, Chief Ombud, Community Schemes Ombud Service said "showing kindness to others is a symbol of living a life of meaning and impact". In the past year KDHF has formed very strong partnerships with various business and church organizations, institutions, companies and individuals, who offered their resources towards the 14 surgeries, both in monetary and non-monetary value. It was encouraging to have the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in the Johannesburg region joining forces with us at this year's celebration. Notwithstanding all the cyclists who donated funds and participated during this year's fundraising charity ride on the 21st March.

The management of Nelson Mandela Children's Hospital stopped everything on the day of surgeries and dedicated two of their theatre rooms and staff for this project, "serving like Madiba" as they would say. The Chief Executive Officer of the hospital, Dr. Nonkululeko Boikhutso in her closing remarks, expressed the need for such collaborations and vision demonstrated by Kids Dental Home Foundation especially if they have to benefit children.

"We had hoped to perform 20 surgeries but practically we could only cover 14, which is still a good number, for a small organization like ours, considering the costs involved in treating cases of Early Childhood Caries under anaesthesia. However, we have no doubt that 2024 would be even better and bigger." – Dr. Londiwe Sibisi-Maboye, Founder and Director, KDHF

As we start preparing for the 3rd Annual Pro Bono Surgeries Programme 2024, we call for various businesses, organizations, and individuals to pledge their financial support to help KDHF put back the smile to more children suffering with Early Childhood Caries.

Donate now to help Kids Dental Home Foundation help more children with Early Childhood Caries in 2024 https://qkt.io/probono_surgeries2023

Should you wish to partner with KDHF, do not hesitate to get in touch with our office in Pretoria.

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