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## **Delta Dental of Rhode Island Announces Major Expansion of Philanthropic Initiatives for 2012**

*State's Leading Dental Insurer Increases its Permanent Charitable Endowment by \$500,000*

**PROVIDENCE, RI (January 24, 2012)** – Delta Dental of Rhode Island, the state's leading dental insurer, today announced the expansion of its permanent charitable endowment, the Delta Dental of Rhode Island Fund, by adding \$500,000 to its current \$3 million endowment. The insurer also detailed its ongoing initiatives to help provide dental care to underserved populations throughout the state.

“Our mission is to help improve the oral health of all Rhode Islanders, not just those lucky enough to have Delta Dental of Rhode Island coverage,” said President & CEO Joseph A. Nagle. “Whether for the under-or uninsured – the working poor – for children, for the elderly, the need has never been greater, especially given the current economic conditions in Rhode Island.” Nagle added that Delta Dental is committed to “fulfilling a significant role in expanding access to care” for Rhode Island's most vulnerable citizens.

### **Extending Dental Care to Those in Need**

Since its inception in 2005, the Delta Dental of Rhode Island Fund, administered by the Rhode Island Foundation, has committed **\$750,000** to dental-related organizations. Here is a partial list at some of the programs and services that the Delta Dental Fund has supported:

- **Community Health Centers (\$103,000):** To fund new dental operatories at Thundermist Health Center, Blackstone Valley Community Health Center and Providence Community Health Center.
- **Wisdom Tooth Mobile Van (\$77,000):** To finance a mobile dental program that provides dental services to elderly residents in nursing homes, including purchasing the van and funding equipment including a portable x-ray system.
- **Samuels Sinclair Dental Center (\$126,000):** To equip new dental operatories and purchase a digital x-ray system for the Samuels Sinclair Dental Center at Rhode Island Hospital, which provides care to children, and intellectually and developmentally disabled patients of all ages.
- **St. Joseph Health Services of Rhode Island (\$130,000):** To support the opening of a Pediatric Dental Center in Johnston; equip several dental operatories and infrastructure improvements at its South Providence clinic.
- **Little Sisters of the Poor (\$24,000):** To equip a new dental operatory to better serve the elderly residents at the Jeanne Jugan Residence, a nursing home.

- **Rhode Island Foundation of Dentistry for the Handicapped (\$55,000):** In support of its Donated Dental program that provides treatment and services to disabled or aged individuals across Rhode Island.
- **The University of Buffalo School of Dental Medicine (\$180,000):** Delta Dental of Rhode Island initiated and funded a Diabetes Research Study in Rhode Island conducted by the University of Buffalo. The study sought to determine whether a dental office was an appropriate setting to screen patients for diabetes and pre-diabetes.

### **Re-affirming a commitment to all Rhode Islanders**

Nagle said that the additional \$500,000 will be used to nurture innovative approaches and programs that will improve coordination and collaboration among the community's dental health resources. "With resources so scarce, it's important to ensure the highest level of coordination and collaboration in the community," said Nagle. He added that the additional funding re-affirms the commitment first made to the Rhode Island oral health community with the establishment of the Fund in 2005.

"In 2012, we are taking our philanthropic efforts to a new level, and challenging others to bring their innovative ideas and programs to our attention as we work to improve dental care for all Rhode Islanders," said Nagle.

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*Delta Dental of Rhode Island is the state's largest dental insurer. The Company and its wholly owned subsidiaries administer dental benefits for more than 700,000 members. The mission of Delta Dental is to improve the dental health of the people of Rhode Island by providing well-managed, high quality and affordable dental care products which are both financially viable and responsive to marketplace needs. [www.deltadentalri.com](http://www.deltadentalri.com).*