

Employer News

APRIL 2009



Benefits Connection Goes 24/7

Benefits Connection is now available 24 hours a day, seven days a week! Members can use Benefits Connection to check their eligibility and benefits, maximum and deductible balances, and claims status. It's fast, easy to use, and free.

Online eligibility submission hours are Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. EST.

To use Benefits Connection, go to www.deltadentalnj.com. Hover over Members, click "Benefits Connection," and log on.

First-time users, click "Register Now."

Free Guides Show Health, Economic Benefits of Dental Benefits

You may not realize the full value of your Delta Dental benefits program. Two free guides provide compelling data that show how dental benefits can improve your employees' overall health, increase your organization's productivity and decrease absenteeism, and help attract and retain employees.

America's Oral Health: A Market Report on Dental Benefits provides a comprehensive summary of the dental benefits market and its relationship to the health benefits market. From the report:

- **Oral health improves when people visit the dentist regularly.** People are more likely to visit the dentist if they have dental benefits. More than 70% with dental benefits report seeing a dentist in the past year, compared to only 50.8% without benefits.
- **Dentists are often the first to detect certain medical conditions.** As many as 120 physical illnesses—including diabetes, respiratory and vascular diseases, and oral cancers—can be detected during oral exams. For many diseases, early detection can significantly improve health outcomes.
- **Dental benefits produce significant savings in health care costs.** The preventive care, early detection, and treatment that dental benefits encourage save the U.S. \$4 billion annually. Every \$1 spent on prevention saves \$4 in treatment.

A Dental Benefits Guide for Employee Benefits Managers shows why employees nationwide rate dental coverage among the most important benefits. From the report:

- **Dental coverage plays a significant role in helping employers attract and retain top talent.** Eight in 10 people said it is important that prospective employers provide dental benefits.
- **Poor oral health can negatively impact a person's overall quality of life and productivity at work.** More than 164 million work hours are lost each year due to dental problems. Parents also risk missing additional work hours when their children suffer from poor oral health. The Surgeon General reports that 51 million school hours are missed each year due to dental-related illnesses.
- **Dental benefits motivate employees to look after their oral health.** Those with dental coverage are significantly more likely to visit the dentist than those without coverage. "Lack of dental insurance" is the primary reason people cite for not seeking preventive care.

You can download these reports by visiting our Web site at www.deltadentalnj.com. Click "Employers," then "Trust the Leader" videos on the right side of the page.

Foundation Grant Helps Paterson Organization Provide Dental Care to Underserved

The Delta Dental Foundation is donating nearly \$1 million in 2009 to support dental clinics, dental education, and community oral health programs in New Jersey and Connecticut. One grant recipient is Eva's Village (www.evasvillage.org), a Paterson-based comprehensive social service agency with a mission to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, treat the addicted, and provide medical care to the poor with respect for the human dignity of each individual.

Eva's Village serves a warm lunch 365 days a year, operates shelters for men, women, and women with children, operates inpatient and outpatient recovery centers for women and men, and has a free medical clinic.

But shelter, food, addiction services, and primary healthcare aren't the only things provided. Eva's Village also gives residents much-needed free dental care, thanks to a program established by Dr. Brian Ullmann, a prosthodontist in Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ.

The free clinic operates each Wednesday, staffed by volunteer dentists and dental assistants. Funding from the

Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation helps pay the salary for a dental assistant and a recording assistant. It also helps pay for supplies and prosthodontic laboratory fees.

Eva's Village gives residents much-needed free dental care, thanks to a program established by Dr. Brian Ullmann.

The clinic provides preventive and emergency dental care, including digital panorex x-rays, cleanings, fillings, extractions, root canals, oral cancer screenings, stainless-steel crown restorations, and dentures.

"Proper dental care is tremendously important for people trying to rehabilitate their lives," says Dr. Ullmann. "It improves the way they look and the way they feel—and it can help give people more confidence and a positive attitude when looking for work."

Other volunteers at the Eva's Village dental clinic include Dr. Yvonne Callas, Dr. Andy Chang, Dr. Ed Kim, and Dr. Joseph DiSilvio.

Oral Cancer Awareness Month Reminder

April is Oral Cancer Awareness Month. Oral cancer is one of the most common cancers, accounting for nearly 35,000 newly diagnosed cases each year in the U.S. and 7,550 deaths, according to the American Cancer Society.

Dentists are often the first to detect this disease and early detection can be life-saving. Several programs are offering free oral cancer screenings in April. To find a screening site near you, call (877) 263-3401 or your county health department.

To learn more about oral cancer, watch our public service video, Oral Cancer Awareness, at www.deltadentalnj.com.

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In Connecticut, Delta Dental Insurance Company writes dental coverage on an insured basis and Delta Dental of New Jersey administers self-funded dental benefit programs.

Delta Dental Golf Classic May 27

Get ready to hit the links *and* help a good cause! Join us at the Nineteenth Annual Delta Dental Classic to support Special Olympics New Jersey (SONJ).

SONJ is a nonprofit organization that provides sports training and athletic competition to children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The Delta Dental Classic has raised more than \$667,000 for SONJ since 1991.

The 2009 Delta Dental Classic takes place on Wednesday, May 27, at Fiddler's Elbow Country Club in Bedminster, NJ. Please join us for a day of friendly competition, valuable prizes and great fun. Plus, you'll be supporting a terrific charity!

For registration information, e-mail Jennifer Appaluccio, japaluccio@deltadentalnj.com.

Find out more about SONJ at www.sonj.org.

