



Greene County Public Health

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Press Release

For Immediate Release
July 3, 2024

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Greene County Public Health Receives Grant From Delta Dental Foundation

Funding will support free dental care at GuardCare event

XENIA, OH — Greene County Public Health recently received a grant in the amount of \$43,131.09 from the Delta Dental Foundation (DDF) to support dental services at the upcoming GuardCare event on August 10-11 at the Greene County Career Center in Xenia.

“We have worked with the Ohio National Guard (ONG) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to bring vital healthcare services to all Ohioans during GuardCare August 10th and 11th at the Greene County Career Center. All Ohioans deserve to live a long, healthy life! Our public health professionals will provide vital training and support to the ONG for this two-day event. Many people delay having dental care resulting in costly emergency room visits. People tell us they cannot afford a visit to a dentist or don’t have enough insurance coverage. Additional funding was sought from the Delta Dental Foundation to provide dental care and follow up referrals, avoiding tooth decay and poor health in the future. GuardCare is one way public health seeks to secure a prosperous and healthy future for our families and workforce,” said Melissa Howell, health commissioner for Greene County Public Health.

According to the 2023 Greene Community Health Assessment, 51,783 Greene County adults did not visit a dentist or dental clinic in the past year. Those that had not visited a dentist reported the following reasons for not receiving care in the past year:

- Cost (47%)
- Fear, apprehension, nervousness, pain, dislike going (31%)
- No reason to go/had not thought of it (18%)
- Did not have or know a dentist (17%)
- Dentist did not accept their health insurance (15%)
- COVID-19 (9%)
- Could not find a dentist that takes Medicaid (8%)
- Have dentures (7%)
- Could not get into a dentist (3%)
- Transportation (3%)
- Language barrier (1%)
- They have mental health/substance use complication or issue (1%)
- Some other reason (13%)

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Regular dental and oral care plays a critical role in maintaining overall health and well-being by preventing dental problems, supporting systemic health, and improving quality of life. It's an essential component of comprehensive healthcare that shouldn't be overlooked. Routine dental check-ups, cleanings, and preventive care, such as fluoride treatments and sealants, help prevent dental problems like cavities, gum disease and tooth decay. Early detection and treatment of these issues can prevent them from becoming more serious and costly to treat later.

“We’re committed to improving access for people and communities that experience barriers to dental care,” said Holli Seabury, EdD, executive director of the DDF. “Unique access points, like GuardCare, help ensure more Ohioans can live their healthiest lives.”

GuardCare will be held August 10, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and August 11, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Greene County Career Center in Xenia. NO COST healthcare services will be available to everyone, regardless of financial or insurance status. No appointments are needed. Services to be provided include behavioral health screenings, breastfeeding consultations, car seat checks and car seat giveaways, child development screenings, Cribs for Kids® (crib giveaways), dental (exams, fillings, extractions), Dolly Parton Imagination Library registration, health and resource fair, hearing screenings, lab work, mammograms, Medicaid and ACA enrollment, mental health screenings and consultations, Narcan kits, nutrition consultation and education, physical therapy, sports physicals and wellness exams, vaccines for all ages and vision (exams, glasses fabricated on-site).

For more information about the DDF, please visit www.deltadental.foundation. For more information about GuardCare and Greene County Public Health, please visit www.gcph.info and click on GuardCare or call 937-374-5600.

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