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ANKENY VOLUNTEER EARNS “IOWA SMILES AWARD”

ANKENY, Iowa – October 2, 2007 – Delta Dental of Iowa today announced that Ankeny East Elementary volunteer Dixie Long has been recognized as a winner of the “Iowa Smiles Award,” an award to recognize Iowans who put smiles on the faces of others, especially in the fields of health care, education and community service.

In the nomination, East Elementary teachers Amy Skarin and Lori Bisgard noted “Grandma” Dixie’s commitment to the community as a volunteer for the kindergarten and other classes two to three times a week for more than three years at East Elementary in Ankeny. She helps the children read and encourages them, praises them, and smiles with them to make them feel special. “Grandma Dixie is very patient and kind with all the children. She instructs when needed and always finds something positive about each child.”

As an Iowa Smiles winner, Long will receive a custom-designed award (pictured above). Delta Dental of Iowa also will donate 100 toothbrushes to the school or agency of her choice.

“We’re pleased to recognize Dixie Long for her contributions to her community, and we welcome nominations of Iowans who bring smiles to others,” says Donn Hutchins, President and CEO of Delta Dental of Iowa. “Whether it’s a teacher who puts smiles on the face of students or a community volunteer who makes an event a little more enjoyable, we want to recognize Iowans who create smiles.”

Continuing awards will be made throughout the state. For more information, or to make a nomination, go to www.iowasmilesaward.com.

Delta Dental of Iowa supports a number of community benefit programs as part of its not-for-profit mission to improve the oral health of Iowans. The company is the largest and most experienced provider of dental benefits in the state. The Iowa company is a member of the Delta Dental Plans Association, a national organization of not-for-profit Delta Dental plans. The national association is the largest dental benefits carrier in the nation providing coverage to more than 47 million people in nearly 81,000 employer groups.

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