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**DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA FUNDS IOWA-MISSION OF MERCY PROJECT
FOR FREE DENTAL CARE**



Left to Right: Dr. Ed Schooley, Vice President and Dental Director, Delta Dental of Iowa; Suzanne Heckenlaible, Executive Director, Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation; Dr. Robert Russell, Dental Director, Iowa Department of Public Health and Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation Board Member; Donn Hutchins, President and CEO, Delta Dental of Iowa; Dr. Steven Bradley, President, Iowa Dental Foundation; Dr. Heather Heddens, President, Iowa Dental Association; and Larry Carl, Executive Director, Iowa Dental Association.

Ankeny, IA, September 23, 2008 – Delta Dental of Iowa has awarded \$50,000 to the Iowa Dental Foundation, the Iowa Dental Association’s non-profit foundation, to help fund the first Iowa Mission of Mercy (IMOM) project in Iowa. IMOM is expected to serve an estimated 1,000 patients seeking dental care at no cost and with no need for appointments. The initial two-day event scheduled for Friday, October 3 and Saturday, October 4 will be at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in Waterloo.

“Delta Dental is proud to be a major sponsor of the first Iowa Mission of Mercy event in Iowa,” said Donn Hutchins, president and CEO, Delta Dental of Iowa. “The goal of IMOM ties directly with Delta Dental’s vision to improve the oral health of Iowans. Throughout the two-day event, hundreds of dentists, hygienists and other volunteers will come together to assist Iowans in need.”

Dental care may not be available or is unaffordable for some Iowans. Untreated infections can lead to other serious health care issues. With the IMOM event, Iowans can access free dental care including cleanings, fillings and extractions. Mission of Mercy projects are conducted throughout the country have been very successful in bringing all the participants in the oral health system together in a concentrated effort to address the oral health needs of the community.

In addition to providing funding for IMOM, Delta Dental of Iowa staff has served on the event steering committee and will volunteer at the two-day event. There is still a need for dentists, hygienists and other volunteers. Six-hour volunteer shifts are available during set up on October 2, Mission of Mercy on October 3-4, and tear down October 5. More information is available at www.IowaMOM.org or call 877-513-8966 ext. 5019.

Delta Dental of Iowa is the largest and most experienced provider of dental benefits in the state. As a not-for-profit, Delta Dental of Iowa invests in oral health projects through the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation that focus on access to care, prevention, education and research. Delta Dental of Iowa is a member of the Delta Dental Plans Association, a national organization of not-for-profit Delta Dental member companies. The national association is the largest dental benefits carrier in the nation, providing coverage to more than 51 million people in nearly 93,000 employer groups.

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