

## Helping Iowa Smile – RaeAnn, SE Iowa



I-Smile™ Silver program coordinator, RaeAnn Herrick, loves her job. It shows in her smile and in the smiles of the older Iowans she helps every day.

Modeled on the I-Smile program for children in the state of Iowa and funded by a Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation grant, I-Smile Silver works to create local systems to improve the ability of Iowans over age 60 to prevent dental disease, to access oral health care and to maintain overall health. The program began as a pilot project in December 2014 in Lee, Scott and Van Buren counties in Iowa. The target population includes residents of nursing facilities, clients of the Medicaid Elderly Waiver program and those receiving home and community-based services.

RaeAnn created a network of connections to bridge the gap in education and access to dental care for older Iowans in Lee and Van Buren counties. RaeAnn distributes dental hygiene aids, develops referral systems with dentists, trains nursing facility staff and direct care workers about dental health and provides care coordination for patients.

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