## For Immediate Release

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## <u>Community Dental Foundation Az</u> Receives American Dental Association Foundation – Award to Help Improve Children's Dental Care

February 1, 2009, Phoenix, Arizona: Community Dental Foundation Az will help improve children's dental care in Maricopa County thanks to an award of \$5,000 Grant from the American Dental Association Foundation's (ADAF) Samuel Harris Fund.

Community Dental Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, provides full-mouth dental services to underserved children. Services are provided on the spot in a CDF Mobile Dental Clinic which goes into the neighborhoods, shelters, schools and communities to treat and educate children 2-20 years of age for multiple issues – cavities, root canals, and crowns. "This grant will go directly toward expanding our ability to reach more kids," says Elizabeth Yi, President of Community Dental Foundation. "Seventy-five per cent of the children we see at the Foundation have never been to dentist and this ADA Harris Grant helps us treat more of these underserved and uninsured children."

The Community Dental Foundation is committed to treating the problems and pain at the location to overcome any transportation obstacle to getting treatment. Each child leaves the CDF Clinic with their smile and self-esteem restored. The Foundation also brings consistency to treatment as they visit the locations on a regular basis, teaching the children the importance of maintenance and giving them a real "dental home." All children receive a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss and a better understanding of how to care for their teeth. Many of the next visits are for check-up and cleaning only.

"We are very pleased to have been selected from the hundreds of worthy applicants to receive funding from the ADAF's Samuel Harris Fund," says Carsten Loelke, Founder of Community Dental Foundation. "We look forward to applying these funds to our program that will help improve the dental health of children in our local community."

## The ADA Foundation Samuel Harris Fund

The ADA Foundation is a catalyst for connecting people and changing lives through better oral health. The ADAF makes grants in the areas of dental research, education, access to care, and charitable assistance for dentists and their dependents. Established by the ADA Foundation in 1999 to help support community dental programs, the Harris Fund is a permanent endowment established through a generous gift by Dr. Samuel Harris. Grants of up to \$5,000 go to educational and preventive programs that set goals to help improve children's dental health. This year, 70 programs received funding out of more than 275 submitted applications. Grants made totaled \$322,095.

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