



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCEF Pediatric Dental Center receives national dental-program award

NAPLES, Fla. (Nov. 20, 2012) – DentaQuest Institute has recognized NCEF Pediatric Dental Center in Naples, Fla. as a Safety Net Solutions Center of Excellence; one of only four safety net programs selected this year.

The Center of Excellence awards honor safety net dental programs around the U.S. that have displayed tremendous leadership and excellence in oral health practice management and have greatly improved the oral health status of their patients. The winners of this award have provided the leadership and initiative necessary to implement changes and make positive change stick within their dental programs.

NCEF Pediatric Dental Center has displayed leadership and excellence in oral health practice management that has impacted the lives of patients through a comprehensive range of routine and specialty services to its patients. A unique partnership among the University of Florida's College of Dentistry, Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida and Naples Children & Education Foundation – founders of Naples Winter Wine Festival, the NCEF Pediatric Dental Center is an elite, innovative and visionary practice.

"We are thrilled to receive the DentaQuest Institute Safety Net Solutions Center of Excellence award," said Dr. Kelly Johnson, Healthcare Network's dental director. "We are delighted to enhance our top-notch pediatric dental residency program to Southwest Florida to help close gaps in oral health in our community."

"NCEF Pediatric Dental Center has done an exceptional job throughout this initiative, and is providing high quality dental care to underserved populations in Florida," said Dr. Mark Doherty, executive director of DentaQuest Institute. "The dental program has distinguished itself as a leader in community-based oral health, and NCEF Pediatric Dental Center should be proud of its accomplishments."

DentaQuest Institute's Safety Net Solutions program is a practice management technical assistance model that brings sound business and practice management expertise to dental practices within community health centers. These dental practices are the oral health safety net across the U.S., but are often overwhelmed by numerous financial challenges. For more information about the DentaQuest Institute and its programs, visit www.DentaQuestinstitute.org.

Naples Children & Education Foundation was formed in 2000 to improve the physical, emotional and educational lives of underprivileged and at-risk children in Collier County. Since 2001, its major fundraiser, Naples Winter Wine Festival, has raised \$107 million, with proceeds helping more than 150,000 children through yearly grants to nonprofit organizations and major projects including NCEF Pediatric Dental Center, which was completed in 2008.

The impetus for NCEF Pediatric Dental Center came from a 2005 needs assessment commissioned by NCEF that revealed an estimated 17,000 children in the county lacked adequate dental care. Comprehensive dental care, including specialty services such as sedation and hospital-based dentistry, is provided at the facility by residents of UF's Pediatric Dentistry Residency Training Program. The center is managed by Healthcare Network and to date has provided care through more than 30,000 patient visits.

For more information about Healthcare Network, visit www.healthcareswfl.org. For more information about NCEF, visit www.napleswinefestival.com or call 888-837-4919.

Photo caption:

Safety Net Solutions presents NCEF Pediatric Dental Center with a Center of Excellence Award at the National Primary Oral Health Conference in San Diego, Cali. in October.

Pictured are: Mark Doherty, DMD – Director of Safety Net Solutions; Kelley Johnson, DMD, Dental Director at Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida; Lesa Peterson, Director of Operations at Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida; Steven Weinman, Executive VP/COO at Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida.

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