



El Sol Science and Arts Academy



For Immediate Release

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Share Our Selves and Healthy Smiles For Kids Receive Major Federal Grant to Implement Oral Health Services at El Sol Science and Arts Academy

Health Resources and Services Administration Funding to Establish a Model School-Based Comprehensive Oral Health Program in Orange County

Santa Ana, CA (September 26, 2011) – In a nationwide competition for innovative projects, Share Our Selves (SOS), and Healthy Smiles For Kids of Orange County were recently awarded a major federal grant worth approximately \$820,000 to implement innovation in healthcare delivery in Orange County. The grant is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services. The award is one of only 12 in the nation, and is the only Southern California project to be selected.

“I am extremely pleased that SOS has received this competitive grant,” says Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-47). “Access to oral health care is one of the great needs of underserved children, and the establishment of the SOS-El Sol Dental Clinic is an important breakthrough for the people of Santa Ana and all of Orange County.”

SOS will serve as the lead agency in a collaboration to establish the SOS- El Sol Dental Clinic, the region’s only school-based comprehensive oral health clinic targeting underserved children at El Sol Science and Arts Academy, a high performing public charter school within Santa Ana Unified School District. The clinic will serve children 0 to 13 years of age, including siblings, and will incorporate culturally competent, bilingual care coordination. The project will be conducted with major healthcare safety net stakeholders in Orange County, including Healthy Smiles For Kids of Orange County, El Sol Science and Arts Academy, and the University of California, Irvine, School of Medicine.

“Transformational change that creates a network of care is a core belief of SOS. This collaboration with El Sol, Healthy Smiles, and UCI is a best practice example, and hopefully a model to be replicated. We must deliver care to people at the time they need it, where they are located, and with excellence in quality as the driver,” states SOS Executive Director, Karen McGlenn.

The SOS-El Sol Dental Clinic will provide a full range of pediatric dental services, including prevention, regular check-ups, restoration, and education. In addition, the dental clinic will provide benefit enrollment assistance and promote the integration of pediatric oral health with medical services provided through the SOS-El Sol Wellness Center, located on adjacent school grounds. The addition of the SOS-El Sol Dental Clinic to the institution’s Wellness Center, which

currently offers urgent medical attention to students and wellness counseling to families, will operate as an accessible 'dental home' for El Sol students and their siblings.

El Sol was recently approved by the Santa Ana Unified School District School Board for a 40-year lease on the land and space surrounding the school site. The SOS-El Sol Dental Clinic will have a permanent space onsite once renovations and proper provisions are secured.

"This four-year grant will broaden school-based pediatric health services at the SOS-El Sol Wellness Center to encompass integrated, comprehensive dental care for the children of El Sol and eventually families in the surrounding community," says El Sol Science and Arts Academy Executive Director Monique Daviss. "The children and families we serve are the primary beneficiaries."

With 50% of its 325,000 Latino citizens (78% total population) living below the poverty level, Santa Ana has been a primary destination of change for pediatric oral health: "The El Sol model reflects how agencies can partner to provide much-needed services in this time of financial hardship - 35% of the children we screen in elementary schools have oral disease. The SOS-El Sol Dental Clinic will go beyond treatment, by educating both children and parents in building oral health and hygiene so that this preventable childhood disease can be eradicated. This grant not only will support delivery of services to the students of El Sol and the community but also through the parent education will impact and improve the oral health outcomes of future generations of children. While this federal funding will help build the clinic, the explosion of children living below the poverty level in Orange County means we will be continually seeking additional funding for supporting the operations," says Healthy Smiles CEO, Elizabeth Bear.

This is the second major grant that has been awarded to the SOS-El Sol Wellness Center in recent months. In July, the center, in collaboration with the UCI School of Nursing, received \$1.5 million in HRSA funding to establish Orange County's first nurse-managed clinic, drive innovation in nursing education and foster interdisciplinary nursing research.

About Share Our Selves

www.shareourselves.org

SHARE OUR SELVES is one of the largest, most comprehensive, volunteer based support agencies providing for the needs of low-income, uninsured and homeless Orange County residents. Services provided annually to more than 140,000 individuals include high quality and efficient medical and dental care, case management, food, clothing, financial assistance, legal aid, and special holiday programs. Founded in 1970, SOS's chartered mission, *We are servants who provide care and assistance to those in need and act as advocates for systemic change*, remains the same today. SOS was the inaugural recipient of the *Irvine Health Foundation Prize* in November 2010 for demonstrating extraordinary success and innovation in delivering accessible, quality services for OC residents. Also in 2010, SOS was awarded the *American Cancer Society-California Division's Harold P. Freeman Award* for its contribution to the reduction of breast cancer disparities among medically-underserved populations.

About El Sol Science and Arts Academy

www.elsolacademy.net

The El Sol Science and Arts Academy, an outstanding dual-immersion charter school in Santa Ana, California was founded in 2001 with 110 students in kindergarten and 1st grade. El Sol now has 780 students enrolled in preschool through eighth grade. El Sol values accountability and expects everyone – including students, teachers, administrators, parents,

and the community – to support the success of the school. As a result, in its short history, El Sol has dramatically raised its test scores to become one of the top performing schools in Santa Ana. El Sol's mission is to provide a rigorous academic environment that prepares students for entrance into a college preparatory track at the high school of their choice, and to create a culture of kindness, creativity, courage, and honesty that will permit our graduates to assume leadership roles in the 21st Century.

About Healthy Smiles For Kids of Orange County

www.healthysmilesoc.org

Healthy Smiles For Kids was established in 2003 by the Children and Families Commission of Orange County, and provides services to over 24,000 underserved, mostly Latino children annually focusing on school-based prevention (i.e. screenings, sealants and referrals to community dental providers), specialty treatment - including general sedation, in-patient services at CHOC Children's, bilingual oral health education programs and advocacy for oral health access. Healthy Smiles is home to the USC Advanced Pediatric Residency Program, and has one of the last mobile prevention programs in the state, serving over 7,000 children annually in nine-different underserved Orange County school districts. Healthy Smiles For Kids of Orange County's mission is to improve the oral health of children in Orange County through collaborative programs aimed at: Access to Treatment, Prevention, Education and Advocacy.

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