Healthy Smiles are Happy Smiles

In 1998 Karen Poulin, a local hygienist, partnered with Robin Loper, the School District Nurse, for a free dental hygiene clinic. What they discovered was a lot of decay that could not go untreated. Soon after, local dentists were approached and, along with their dental assistants and hygienists, they began providing free dental care to the community's uninsured children. Fonda Lawson has been a volunteer nurse for the past nine years and has coordinated this program, which has provided an estimated $34,455 in free dental care in 2007 alone. The dental van services are provided with the donations from local individuals and businesses. Individuals may sponsor a dental van for $300 which is tax deductible. When children's oral health suffers, so does their ability to learn. Children with unmet dental needs suffer the daily distraction of chronic toothaches and the acute and searing pain of dental decay. Children with dental needs who lack access to dental care often do not seek care until decay is severe. Many thanks to local dentists and staff, including Keith Valachi, Michael Van Gordon, Wayde Elliott, Jeff Grimm, David Hiebert, and Keri Smith.



Alexander Prettyman gets a new toothbrush from hygienist Mindy Heimbuck

