

Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures Van Provides Awareness Opportunity at Piscataway Nation WOW Event

The inaugural Wellness On Wheels (WOW) Mobile Health Clinic Event for the Piscataway Nation was held at the tribe's Museum and Cultural Center in southern Maryland on Nov., 14, 2016. The collaboration included the Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians, the Prince George's County's Doctors Community Hospital, and the Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures Van. This critically important effort is the brainchild of the Tribal Chairwoman, Natalie Standingontherock Proctor. A member of the Wild Turkey Clan, Proctor continues to advocate for support to improve the delivery of comprehensive healthcare for the indigenous people of Southern Maryland and the entire community.

The Colgate van provided the much needed oral health awareness opportunity for the community and for WOW, and now serves as a model for expanding comprehensive screenings and services. Dr. Valerie Bess-Blythe, the Professional Coordinator for the Washington, DC Bright Smiles Bright Futures dental van, said, "Awareness of oral health care needs through the dental screenings offered by the Colgate van can have a significant impact on overall health." Other Colgate volunteers included, Coordinator, Ms. Connie Reid, Community Awareness Representative, Mr. Derrick Warren, Dental Hygiene Coordinator, Ms. Janyce Jefferson, RDH, MPH and Ms. India Queen. The Society of American Indian Dentists (SAID) was represented by their Vice President, and Piscataway tribal member, Dr. Winifred J. Booker who was instrumental in efforts to ensure the Colgate van became a part of today's WOW Event. Dr. Booker went on to say, "The alliance between Colgate and the SAID is established to help elevate oral health awareness. It is during opportunities like WOW that this relationship offers promise for so many and in so many ways."