

# Dr. Ron O'Neal Hosts the 2nd Annual "Project Save-A-Smile"

By Dick Koch

Smiling faces everywhere. Tampa Bay Buccaneer Jeb Terry signing autographs. Clowns walking about. Inflatable slides with children bouncing around. The Chik-fil-A cow handing out tasty sandwiches. Santa Claus passing out toys-all the while music is jamming in the background as everyone is having a good time.

Sound like a trip to your local dentist's office?



Probably not. Well for a group of foster children in St. Petersburg, this was exactly the case.

For the second year in a row, in December, St. Petersburg Kiwanis Club member Dr. Ron O'Neal hosted the annual Project Save-a-Smile at his St. Petersburg office. Dr. O'Neal and his entire team provided digital x-rays, oral exams, cleanings and the placement of dental restorations.

Dr. Michael Hess and his staff from Hess Orthodontics examined the children and determined the need for braces. Dr. Hess will subsequently select two children to have comprehensive orthodontics performed at no cost to the child.

Sullivan Schein a dental supply company represented by Kirk Yauger supplied the dental products for the event which provided



dental treatment for foster children identified as needy by several community foster children's organizations.

While waiting for their treatment, the children had an opportunity to play with clowns and jump on the inflatable bouncy slide and moonwalk provided by "A Funny Business" and "Sweet Pea" the clown. Breakfast and lunch was provided for all the children, parents and volunteers by Chick-fil-A and Publix Supermarkets.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers supplied an outdoor obstacle course to help the kids improve their football skills. They each also received an autographed memorabilia from the Buccaneers.



Each child, parent and volunteer received a complimentary 2006 Project Save A Smile t-shirt donated by Greg

Pierce of Administrative Partners, Inc and the St. Petersburg Kiwanis Club.

Ed and Cher Stillo from Venturi Productions kept the fun going with their line dance tunes.

Santa Claus had presents for all courtesy of Acme Air Conditioning and Wallace, Welch and Willingham, both members of Kiwanis.

Elaine Fitzgerald of Practically Frivolous provided haircuts and a makeup session to the kids and parents.

Additional volunteer support was provided by members of the St. Petersburg Kiwanis Club, the St. Pete High School Key Club, and Jeff Jones.

"Project Save a Smile" is a non-profit dental treatment organization



founded by Dr. O'Neal. The mission is to provide dental care to foster children who otherwise would be unable to have this type of care. Dr. O'Neal and his staff take pride in creating an environment that is sure to excite the youth about their oral health and encourage them to continue good habits in the future.

"I truly enjoy being part of helping someone redefine their smile. Having the opportunity to help a child potentially realize the importance of oral health is paramount."

"I'd like to personally thank the generosity of all of our sponsors that made this event such a success for the children," Dr. O'Neal said.