

# SUNSTAR

## E-Briefs - News You Can Use

March 11, 2009

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### Children's Oral Health - A Great Cause



#### A GREAT CAUSE

Have you ever wanted to make a big difference in someone's life? Are you curious about the next phase of your dental hygiene career and looking to feel more fulfilled and excited? Throughout your profession many opportunities will be presented to you and along your journey you will read about many individuals who are helping to fulfill the needs of others. It is possible that when you least expect it, you will find the **cause** that lights your passion!

In 1974 **DeeLee Mendenhall, RN, RDH** completed an Associate of Arts degree in Registered Nursing at Boise State University she then earned a B.A. in dental hygiene from Idaho State University. Her work history includes nine years hospital and home-health experience as well as 30 years private practice dental hygiene.

DeeLee found her passion working with the **North Central District Health Department (NCDHD)** and has assisted in developing numerous successful programs including:

- Early childhood caries prevention & detection
- Fluoride varnish application for children
- School based sealant and fluoride rinse program
- Dental health education for Head Start children

### Soft Picks

#### [What Is Little And Green and Provides a Gentle Massage To the Gum Tissues?](#)

GUM® Soft-Picks®

As a dental professional you know that it is difficult to convince a patient to clean between their teeth. Sunstar has an easy solution. GUM Soft-Picks.

In a survey of over 150 Dental Hygienists:

- 100% said they would recommend Soft-Picks to a patient
- 88% said they would use Soft-Picks themselves or would tell a friend
- 76% said Soft-Picks are better than other picks on the market

Soft-Picks are easy to use when flossing is too cumbersome or difficult.

### GUM Rincinol to the Rescue

Are you always looking for a quick fix for the patient who has numerous sores in their mouth? Try GUM Rincinol:

- Oral Pain Management in a new convenient office

- Community dental health education with the ADA's February "Give Kids a Smile 2009" volunteer clinic

The future of oral care in the Public Health sector is an exciting and rewarding choice for many dental hygienists. State health departments consider dental health a critical part of overall wellness which means continued opportunities in the field.

NCDHD provides public health services to five counties in Idaho. Covering 13,500 square miles, and a population of 101,195. This department employs public health nurses, nurse practitioners, nutritionists, dental hygienists, health education specialists, environmental health specialists, public health preparedness staff, and general support staff. According to the 2005 Idaho Department of Health & Welfare *Smile Survey*, 26% of third grade children screened in North Central Idaho had dental decay. In addition, 57% did not have dental sealants on their molar teeth. This data demonstrates the need for access to oral health care for children living in North Central Idaho.

DeeLee found the passion in her dental hygiene choice and has made a difference to many children throughout her career. If you are looking for that rewarding choice take a look at Community Health.

Thank you for sharing DeeLee!

## Sunstar / RDH Award of Distinction

**Now Accepting Nominations for the 2009**

**Sunstar / RDH Award of Distinction**

2009 Winners will receive

- Round trip airfare, hotel accommodations, entertainment, and registration to RDH Under One Roof Conference
- Recognition from Sunstar and RDH at a special awards ceremony
- Featured on the cover and in related articles in September 2009 issue of RDH

Submit answers to the following questions

- How has the applicant assisted their patients in living a healthier life?
- How has the applicant made a positive impact on their community?
- What accomplishment in the applicant's hygiene career are they the most proud of?

For additional information, eligibility requirements, or to submit application visit <http://www.rdhmag.com> and follow the link on the homepage.

a new convenient zinc dispenser

- Provides a protective coating to soothe tissues and promote healing
- For fast, long lasting pain relief
- Does NOT numb or sting the mouth
- Does Not contain benzocaine or alcohol
- Patient can leave your office feeling more comfortable

## Tammy Keller receives Grant

Many of you read our November e-Brief featuring Tammy Keller, RDH and her work with pregnant mothers and infants in the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin. The responses and support she received from many of you were heart warming. Due to your interest, we are very happy to inform you that Tammy has received the ADA Samuel Harris Grant. The additional funding from this grant will assist Tammy with her endeavors to continue researching the benefits of xylitol with these mothers and infants.

CONGRATULATIONS Tammy...we share in your excitement!!

## Sunstar & ADHA Partnership

Dear Sunstar Team,

I am a dental hygiene educator, student adviser and proud ADHA member. I salute your efforts in partnering with ADHA. This collaboration will surely benefit the students and ultimately the patients!

Thank you again for continuing, unwavering support of dental hygienists and preventive oral care. Thank you!

Sherri L. Meyers, RDH, MS

Professor, Northampton  
Community College



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