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CONTACT: Liz Rogers (207)756-2444
liz@oralhealthamerica.org

**ORAL HEALTH AMERICA NAMES HAZEL J. HARPER, DDS, MPH
AS FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE
MARVIN GOLDSTEIN OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD**

CHICAGO, June 5, 2009—Hazel J. Harper, DDS, MPH, of Washington, DC, has been named by Oral Health America as the first recipient of the Marvin Goldstein Outstanding Volunteer Award for her leadership as co-founder and project director of the Deamonte Driver Dental Project in Prince George's County, MD. The award was presented at the National Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore, MD, on June 5, at a program launch for National Smile Month.

"It is with the greatest pleasure that Oral Health America's Board of Directors presents the Marvin Goldstein Outstanding Volunteer Award to Dr. Harper for her dedicated volunteer leadership of the Deamonte Driver Dental Project," said Peggy Cottrell, Treasurer of the Oral Health America Board of Directors. "Her leadership in moving the Deamonte Driver Dental Project from dream to reality signifies how non-profits, dentistry, community advocates, the media and government can come together to redefine community engagement."

In February, 2007, a young boy in Prince George's County Maryland died from a brain infection caused by bacteria from tooth decay. His name was Deamonte Driver. He and his brothers lacked access to regular dental care. Devastated by the news of Deamonte's death, a group of dentists, led by Dr. Harper, collaborated with community partners to examine and provide treatment for other children at Deamonte's school, the Foundation School of Prince George's County.

In the months that followed, Maryland legislators and policy makers vowed to "fix the system". There are nearly 500,000 Medicaid children in Maryland; but fewer than one in three were seen by a dentist in 2007. Guided by the work of Maryland's Dental Action Committee, oral health for children is now a top priority for the state. The Governor's initiative includes a school-based mobile dentistry component, which provides some funding for the Deamonte Driver Dental Project. The goal of the Deamonte Driver Dental Project is to provide a grassroots solution to a problem that is preventable.

The Marvin Goldstein Outstanding Volunteer Award was established in honor of Dr. Marvin Goldstein by his daughter. Dr. Goldstein was committed to providing access to care and opportunity over the thirty years he practiced dentistry in Atlanta, GA.

Dr. Goldstein's family emigrated from Russia to escape anti-Semitism. He received his dentistry degree from Emory University in Atlanta in 1938. After serving in World War II, he began a dental practice specializing in orthodontics, which was integrated from the day it was opened. He became the orthodontist for members of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. family, and was on

the board of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change for many years. He also opened the first integrated hotel in Atlanta.

"Oral Health America believes that at this juncture in our organizational history and in that of the nation, this award speaks volumes about our collective community consciousness and the tremendous contribution Dr. Harper has made to changing the lives of children in Prince George's County, MD," added Peggy Cottrell.

Oral Health America is the nation's leading, independent organization dedicated to eliminating oral disease through access, education and advocacy. June is National Smile Month and Oral Health America and the National Museum of Dentistry, dental offices, community care providers, schools, and camps are promoting effective oral health policies and encouraging children and adults not to forget their toothbrushes on summer vacation.

National Smile Month is sponsored by Patterson Dental, Dental Trade Alliance Foundation, United Healthcare, and other dental industry leaders. A simultaneous campaign runs in the United Kingdom through the International Dental Health Foundation. Information is available at www.oralhealthamerica.org.

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