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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **SPECIAL THANKS TO A YOUNG DONOR DURING THIS WEEK OF GIVING THANKS**

November 22, 2010, Chicago, IL—Oral Health America recently received a gift from a very special supporter. Eleven-year-old Barbara Jones, with the help of her mother, Carol Lynn Judge, made a donation to Smiles Across America® (SAA) after reading about the program in a magazine at her dentist’s office. Barbara has already experienced multiple rounds of braces and understood how the program could help other children who were not able to get the care they needed. She wanted to be part of the solution.

“I want to help give small children something to smile about,” said Barbara, who is currently a fifth-grader in Manassas, VA. In order to raise money, Barbara sold her old toys in a community garage sale, donating the profits to OHA.

Barbara also competed in National American Miss’s national pageant in Anaheim, CA, this month and used SAA in her platform. She included SAA because “it’s one of my favorite charities,” she said.

SAA is a signature program created by Oral Health America to improve the health of elementary school students by supporting oral disease prevention services in school-based or school-linked settings, and demonstrating to communities that healthy mouths are integral to overall health. The program has provided over \$1.8 million in grant awards and over one million donated dental sealants to non-profit community dental care providers, and annually supports services to over 310,000 at-risk children in 27 states.

“A special thanks to Barbara, who joins many Oral Health America supporters from the dental industry and profession who believe in giving back to help others in need,” said Beth Truett, President and CEO, Oral Health America. “As we look forward to Thanksgiving this week, we are reminded not only how grateful we are to our donors, but also of our obligation to expand our programs and connect more communities with resources to improve oral health.”

Oral Health America’s mission is to change lives by connecting communities with resources to increase access to oral health care, education and advocacy for all Americans, especially those most vulnerable. For more information, visit [www.oralhealthamerica.org](http://www.oralhealthamerica.org).

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