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**SMILES ACROSS AMERICA EXPANDS TO BRING NEEDED ORAL HEALTH CARE TO
ALEXANDRIA, LA, CHILDREN**

CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital Joins SAA Thanks to Patterson Foundation Grant

CHICAGO, April 15 — Smiles Across America® (SAA), an [Oral Health America](#) (OHA) program, is proud to welcome CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital in Alexandria, LA, into the SAA network. This addition to the program is made possible by a \$58,000 grant awarded by the Patterson Foundation to expand SAA to new areas of the country.

"The Patterson Foundation has long supported SAA and we're grateful for this latest grant that allows us to welcome new organizations into the SAA family, including CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital," said Beth Truett, President and CEO for Oral Health America. "Thousands of children will receive oral health and education thanks to the Patterson Foundation's **continued** support."

CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital currently provides medical services through 17 school-based centers serving a student population of 11,000, with the school district receiving 90-100% of parental consent forms back for treatment. With their inclusion in SAA, the centers will now be able to offer dental care as well, with 2,200 students to receive services this school year.

OHA will formally welcome CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital to the SAA family with a celebration event on April 15 at Cloutierville Elementary and Junior High School.

SAA, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year, provides its partners with grant funding, technical assistance in the areas of communications and coalition building, and product donations to allow them to reach more underserved and uninsured children and address barriers to care. Each year, the program reaches more than 400,000 children and distributes more than 500,000 units of donated dental product.

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ABOUT ORAL HEALTH AMERICA

OHA'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. Through [Smiles Across America](#)®, which serves 400,000 children annually, the [Wisdom Tooth Project](#)™, which reaches tens of thousands of older adults, and the [Campaign for Oral Health Equity](#), which prioritizes oral health alongside other chronic diseases, OHA provides needed oral health care and education, helping Americans of all ages to have a healthy mouth and understand the importance of oral health for overall health. For more information about Oral Health America, please visit www.oralhealthamerica.org.



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