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One of three operatories in the Smilemobile, where Dian Bevacqua shows Wendy Campbell (left) and Alicia Burton how to brush their teeth. Sister Maureen, principal of St. Lucy's, looks on.

## 'Keep on Smilin'

### Mobile Dentistry Goes to Kids

If you can't get the kids to go to a dentist, then you have to get a dentist to go to the kids.

That's what's happening for kindergartners and first graders at St. Lucy's school, 247 Troup Street. Through the non-profit Children's Dental Health Service set up by Rochester area dentists, many of these inner city youngsters are seeing a dentist for the first time.

With a little help from corporate friends, the dentists have equipped a 40-foot van, the 'Smilemobile,' with three dental operatories, and staffed it with professional help to travel to schools in areas of the city where dental care isn't an ordinary thing.

The van, its equipment and supplies were donated by Sybron Corporation and its Ritter and Kerr divisions. Other initiating grants were made by the Wegman Foundation and the Monroe County Dental Society. A small operating deficit is underwritten by Eastman Dental Center. Rochester Gas & Electric provides free power and power connections to round out the present community support.

According to Sister Maureen, building principal of St. Lucy's, "Many of these children wouldn't otherwise have gone to a dentist. We have had only one parent refuse to permit her child to be treated, and that was only because her child already goes to their family dentist."

"The kids love the 'Smilemobile,'" she added. "The dentists and other personnel handle the children well and these kids are really proud of the work that is being done. They strut back into school and show off their fillings, caps or extractions."

The 'Smilemobile' has been located at St. Lucy's since just after Thanksgiving and will move on soon to another inner

city school.

"This venture is a pilot program to determine the most effective and efficient method of extending dental care to the indigent child population," Dr. Jack W. Howitt, a dentist who is executive director of the program, explained.

"It eliminates the need for an often unavailable adult," he said. "All we need is the parents' consent, not their participation."

Care initially is being offered in Kindergarten and first grade levels at five elementary schools in the inner city. The program was started with the opening of the school year last September; and through the end of November, 861 patient visits were recorded at only two schools. Each year the program will be expanded systematically.

"We're already finding out that the dental needs of indigent children are far beyond what we expected," Howitt noted. "We hope that enthusiasm for dental care will spill over to other members of the family and motivate them to seek improved oral health, through other community facilities - and ultimately through private practitioners."

The supporting dental community regards the program not as competition, but as an investment in the future, according to Howitt, who said this attitude "has given us a marvelously dedicated staff of dentists, hygienists and dental assistants. This allows us to do research into new methods, training and utilizing people with lesser training so that dentists and hygienists are freed to perform more complicated procedures."

The van is operated at all times by a staff of four: one dentist from a rotating staff of seven; one dental hygienist; one dental assistant; and a volunteer from the Monroe County

Dental Society's women's auxiliary. The professionals are paid through Medicaid and other public funding sources.

### Not Just Sunday Singers, They're 'Everyday People'

Each Sunday, at the Church of the Holy Name in Greece, "Everyday People" sing out the 9:30 Mass to the accompaniment of six guitars and a banjo, a string base, tambourine and drums.

Being "Everyday People," they don't stop with church folk singing, but take their music around to hospitals, nursing homes and public places on an increasingly busy schedule. Their engagements for the next few months include a second visit to the teenagers' ward at Rochester State Hospital, and performances at a county American Legion gathering and at the Canandaigua Veterans' Hospital. On weekends, they practice.

The group of eight boys and 22 girls was organized in December, 1969, and has been directed by Mrs. Josephine Ansetmo and Father Lawrence A. Gross. Father Fred Helfrich succeeds Father Gross, who was transferred lately to the chaplaincy at Bishop Kearney High School.

#### COLLEGE TO CLOSE

Richardton, N.D. — (RNS) — Assumption College, operated by the Benedictine Order here, will suspend operations in May. The college's board of directors cited spiraling education costs and small enrollments as major factors in the decision.

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