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NEWS RELEASE

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Mid-Iowa Health Foundation Awards Grant to Continue Oral Health Project

The Mid-Iowa Health Foundation recently awarded a \$20,000 grant to the Iowa CareGivers to continue the Mouth Care Matters project, an initiative of the Lifelong Smiles Coalition, led by Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation (DDIAF).

The overarching purpose of the project is to increase access to oral health for older Iowans who are homebound and those living in nursing homes. “Since Certified Nursing Assistants and Home Care Aides provide most of the hands-on care for Iowans in those situations, it makes sense to focus on education and skill enhancement for this vital sector of the workforce,” said Suzanne Mineck, President, Mid-Iowa Health Foundation.

During the first two years of the project, the Mouth Care Matters curriculum was developed, twenty-three (23) dental hygienists received instructor training, and about 100 direct care workers completed the training.

“With this continued support, we will make enhancements to the curriculum and seek ways to make the training more accessible and sustainable in the future,” said Maribel Slinde, Board Chair, Iowa CareGivers.

Since 1984, the Mid-Iowa Health Foundation has pursued its mission to serve as a partner and catalyst for improving the health of vulnerable people in greater Des Moines. The Iowa CareGivers' mission is to enhance the quality of care for all Iowans by providing education, recognition, advocacy, and research in support of paid direct caregivers.

“Mid-Iowa Health Foundation has supported and partnered with the Iowa CareGivers in their unique approach to improving access to care for vulnerable populations. Clearly, a well-educated, skilled, and prepared direct care workforce is vital to Iowans having access to the care and services they need,” Mineck said.

For more information about the work of these two organizations, visit www.midiowahealth.org or www.iowacaregivers.org.

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