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News Release
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**Lifetime oral health tips offered
to more than 100 Boise-area children**

*Regence Caring Foundation for Children provides youth with education
and fluoride treatments at two Boise locations*

BOISE — More than 100 Treasure Valley children can feel better about their teeth right now – while their parents and guardians may sleep better knowing their children have received knowledge about how to prevent tooth problems later.

That's because of oral health education and fluoride treatments the children are receiving Tuesday and Wednesday at two Boise YMCA locations. The clinics were sponsored by Regence BlueShield of Idaho's Caring Foundation for Children in partnership with the Central District Health Department and St. Luke's Regional Medical Center.

Fluoride applications have been proven to be effective in preventing and reversing the early signs of tooth decay, according to Kathy Ellis, Idaho coordinator of the Caring Foundation for Children.

“Tooth decay can lead to more serious oral health problems, not to mention other health issues,” Ellis said. “The partnership we’ve formed with St. Luke’s and the Central District Health Department gives us the opportunity to help these children prevent a potential problem before it gets started.”

Ellis said that tooth decay, if not treated properly early, can lead to major problems for children later in life.

“By helping to treat children early, we can help them avoid serious health problems stemming from untreated oral disease, including weight loss, tooth decay and costly emergency room visits,” she said.

Clinics are being conducted Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Boise Downtown Family YMCA, 1050 West State Street, and Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Boise West Family YMCA, 5959 North Discovery Way.

Ellis said children from families without dental insurance are three times more likely to have unmet dental needs than children with public or private insurance.

“Contributions to the Foundation are always gratefully accepted so help the less fortunate,” Ellis said.

About the Regence Caring Foundation for Children

The Regence Caring Foundation for Children, a 501(c)(3) organization, provides free dental care to eligible children in Idaho and Utah. It is sponsored and administered by Regence and has provided more than 18,000 uninsured children with free medical or dental care for 14 years. Participating dentists provide dental services to eligible children at reduced rates. The Foundation is funded through tax-deductible contributions from individuals, corporations, civic groups, churches and other foundations. For more information, visit our Web site at www.caringfoundationforchildren.org.

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