



Gifts of Dental Kits Make Kids Smile at the YMCA

Those contagious smiles on the faces of many children during the Christmas holidays weren't because they were dreaming of Santa Claus. It's all about the values of good oral health and a helping hand from [Charity Works, Inc.](#)

Just before last Christmas, Charity Works provided 100 dental kits to the [YMCA of the Suncoast](#) which were distributed during the annual toy giveaway event at one of the Y's local branches. During the year Charity Works provides distributions of free personal hygiene products from its [GIVE HOPE USA](#)® wellness-medical aid program. Nonprofit agencies with outreach programs that serve underprivileged youths and adults are eligible to participate in this wellness-based initiative.

Dental kits, containing a toothpaste, toothbrush, travel cap, floss and zipper pouch carrying case, were presented to over 60 children on Dec. 17, 2105 at the [Greater Ridgecrest YMCA](#) by Frank Hibbard, former Clearwater (Fla.) mayor, and Herbert G. Brown, Rotary International past president. Brown, an area philanthropist and business executive, along with his family, has been providing gifts of toys to the YMCA of the Suncoast for the past 10 years.

"And Charity Works is pleased once again to partner with the Brown family by providing a health-care gift to accompany their traditional toys for the kids," said Chris R. Renfrow, Charity Works president/CEO.

Added Teresa Hibbard, vice president/chief development officer for the YMCA of the Suncoast: "The kids just loved the dental kits," prompting Brown to say: "They now have the supplies to practice (oral hygiene) with and toys to enjoy."

The personal hygiene products included in the [GIVE HOPE USA](#)® program are generally donated in-kind to Charity Works from generous sponsors such as [Henry Schein Cares Foundation](#) or they are purchased at bargain prices from selected vendors through the organization's innovative purchasing advisory services program. Maximizing donors' funds is a key goal in all of the services offered by Charity Works which is headquartered in Clearwater.

The Greater Ridgecrest YMCA is located in a low-income Pinellas County (Fla.) community. The demographics are primarily African American and Latino. Collaboration is a huge part of its program delivery system, especially in the area of academics. For example, based on an initiative of [U. S. Rep. David W. Jolly](#), R-Fla., this YMCA branch is one of four "Little Free Library" sites in the county that are designed to encourage children to read by making books easily accessible and at no cost.

Hibbard also mentioned that the remaining dental kits provided to the YMCA were given to another local director of a community kids club who asked for kits for her students. This collaborative effort among nonprofits is consistent with Charity Works' [GIVE HOPE USA](#)® program and its mission of [Helping Those Who Help Others](#)®.

