

## PROJECT SAVING SMILES WRAPS UP FOR THE YEAR

Wrapping up a highly successful first year, **Project Saving Smiles (PSS)** concluded its final mission of the 2008-09 school year at Good Neighbor last month. The **PSS** team felt a sense of real accomplishment when looking back at the three missions. Realizing they have only scratched the surface in preventing dental cavities among Houston area children, the team is already looking forward to continuing the program next school year.

GNHC, working with its wonderful partner, the **Houston Department of Health & Human Services**, donated its dental care facilities and space for all three missions. But, a big part of the provider community pitched in, as well, in various ways. Indeed, scores of agencies and individual providers volunteered their resources, time, and talent to help prevent dental cavities in Houston's young children.

Altogether, **PSS** screened 1,955 second graders, sealing 5,739 teeth, and applying 1,932 fluoride varnishes. Over the span of the three missions, an average of 67 volunteers/staff dedicated their efforts on a daily basis to **PSS**, providing a total of \$255,491.36 worth of services.

"A lot of good people in the community made **PSS** happen, both within the private and public sectors," remarked **Janet S. Donath**, GNHC's Executive Director. "But **Johanna De Young** with the **City of Houston** and the entire **PSS Planning Team** deserve special recognition for their ability to bring about such a wonderful collaboration. It really is a superb model to be emulated by others, a shining example of what this community can do when marshalling forces against a critical health care problem. Congratulations to everyone involved!"

