



For Immediate Release

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Henry Schein Cares Foundation Launches Next Phase of the ‘Wearing is Caring’ Public Health Awareness Campaign and Announces New Support for Special Olympics Programs

Special Olympics Louisiana Receives Donation of Face Coverings to Help Reduce the Spread of COVID-19

Covington, LA, 11 March 2021 – The Henry Schein Cares Foundation, Inc. (HSCF), in partnership with The UPS Foundation, has launched the second phase of its ‘Wearing is Caring’ campaign, focusing on raising awareness about the integral connection between oral health and systemic wellness. Poor oral health has been found to negatively impact overall health, and is significantly associated with chronic disease, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, respiratory disease, and stroke.

To raise awareness about this issue, the Henry Schein Cares Foundation is supporting select local Special Olympics Programs in Louisiana, Georgia, and Mississippi with funding towards Special Olympics Healthy Athletes® programs, which provide health screenings and education in eight different disciplines, including oral health, for Special Olympics athletes. These types of programs offer an integrated ‘total health’ model.

Special Olympics Louisiana received a donation from The Henry Schein Cares Foundation of 1,000 face coverings for athletes and a cash donation towards prevention programming to help stop the spread of COVID-19 across the **Louisiana** community.

Special Olympics Special Smiles®, the dentistry portion of the Healthy Athletes program, fills a need for people with intellectual disabilities (ID) and offers a complete dental history, education about the importance of good oral hygiene habits, and a dental exam. At Special Smiles, trained clinicians assess several indicators of oral health including mouth pain, untreated tooth decay, and gingival signs. They provide treatment, mouth guards, fluoride varnish as needed, and referrals for follow-up care. After athletes received care through Special Smiles:

- **67%** no longer had mouth pain;
- **25%** no longer had untreated tooth decay; and
- **30%** of athletes no longer need urgent referrals.



The Special Smiles program is integrated within the broader Healthy Athletes program affording children and adults with intellectual disabilities holistic health care, which improves patient outcomes and reduces the overall cost of care. In addition to program benefits of the athletes receiving care, there are benefits for participating health care students and professionals. Through training and hands-on experience at screenings, students and professionals increase their knowledge of best practices in caring for, and communicating with, people with intellectual disabilities, which advances cultural competency and reduces health equity gaps.

“We are excited to partner with Henry Schein for the Wearing is Caring campaign which helps bring awareness about how masks will help COVID-19 prevention efforts and also support the work we are doing for our athletes as it relates to oral health care. Henry Schein has been a great friend of Special Olympics Louisiana for many years, and we are proud to work with them on this recent campaign,” says John Guzzardo, President & CEO of Special Olympics Louisiana.

SOLA has hosted Special Smiles for over ten years. We currently have 3 clinical directors around the state who oversee the discipline. We host in person screenings throughout the year as well as virtual Special Smiles now that we are living in a more virtual world. We want to provide athletes with the opportunity to better their oral health even if we can't see them in-person. We have a great relationship with LSU Dental School who provides students and volunteers for our in person and virtual Special Smiles events. In a normal year, we screen between 300-400 athletes in Special Smiles. We also provided recently provided athletes with masks, toothbrushes and toothpastes thanks to the donations from Henry Schein! For COVID-19, we provide a COVID course which teaches participants about COVID and how to prevent the spread among other mitigation measures.

“As we continue to advocate for public health, health equity, and wellness through the Wearing is Caring campaign, we are delighted to strengthen expanded access to oral health care provided through integrated models of care delivery, particularly for people with disabilities,” said Stanley M. Bergman, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Henry Schein, Inc. “Together with Special Olympics, we will work to enhance access to essential health care for people with intellectual disabilities, with a focus on oral health, which is such a critical component to achieving good overall health.”

“People with intellectual disabilities are at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 and face inequities in all areas of health care, especially oral health,” said Dr. Alicia Bazzano, Chief Health Officer, Special Olympics. “Thanks to the generous donation from Henry Schein, we can prioritize the distribution of face masks to Special Olympics Programs that are in most need of critical health care resources and further advocate a total health model that integrates oral health and overall health. In addition, we can help close the gap in preventive health education and services to help ensure inclusive health care is a reality.”



This public health awareness campaign kicked off in October 2020 in support of Center of Diseases Control (CDC) Foundation's Crush COVID initiative to reinforce the importance and benefits of wearing face coverings. The face coverings come in a variety of styles and sizes, with messages tailored to each phase of the campaign, including: Mask Me About My Smile; Just Keep Smiling; and I'm Still Smiling.

To learn more about the Wearing is Caring campaign, please visit www.hscaresfoundation.org.

About Henry Schein Cares Foundation Inc.

Established in 2008, the Henry Schein Cares Foundation works to foster, support, and promote dental and medical health by helping to increase access to care in communities around the world. The Henry Schein Cares Foundation carries out its mission through financial and health care product donations to non-profit organizations supporting health care professionals and community-based programs focused on prevention, wellness, and treatment; disaster preparedness and relief; and capacity building of health institutions that provide training and care.

The Foundation is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Contributions to the Foundation are tax-deductible as provided by law.

About Henry Schein, Inc.

Henry Schein, Inc. (Nasdaq: HSIC) is a solutions company for health care professionals powered by a network of people and technology. With more than 19,000 [Team Schein Members](#) worldwide, the Company's network of trusted advisors provides more than 1 million customers globally with more than 300 valued solutions that help improve operational success and clinical outcomes. Our Business, Clinical, Technology, and Supply Chain solutions help office-based [dental](#) and [medical](#) practitioners work more efficiently so they can provide quality care more effectively. These solutions also support [dental laboratories](#), [government and institutional health care clinics](#), as well as other alternate care sites.

Henry Schein operates through a centralized and automated distribution network, with a selection of more than 120,000 branded products and Henry Schein private-brand products in stock, as well as more than 180,000 additional products available as special-order items.

A FORTUNE 500 Company and a member of the S&P 500® index, Henry Schein is headquartered in Melville, N.Y., and has operations or affiliates in 31 countries. The Company's sales from continuing operations reached \$10.0 billion in 2019, and have grown at a compound annual rate of approximately 13 percent since Henry Schein became a public company in 1995.

For more information, visit Henry Schein at www.henryschein.com, [Facebook.com/HenrySchein](https://www.facebook.com/HenrySchein), and [@HenrySchein on Twitter](https://twitter.com/HenrySchein).

About Special Olympics Louisiana



The mission of Special Olympics Louisiana is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage and experience joy while participating in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, Special Olympics athletes and the community. Currently, SOLA provides 12 sports involving over 12,000 athletes supported by 8,200 volunteers.

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