

For additional information please contact Cameron Carey at [Cameron.carey@chcfc.org](mailto:Cameron.carey@chcfc.org)

February 29, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **The Community Health Center of Franklin County and Newton School Partner to Improve the Oral Health of Children**

**GREENFIELD** – The Community Health Center of Franklin County has been working with The Newton School and its administration to provide focused classroom education covering topics of oral health and nutrition. As part of a grant received from the McKinney-Vento Trust a dental hygienist and nutritionist/certified diabetes educator are spending time with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders to talk about the importance of eating well and taking care of their teeth. Particular attention is paid to helping students develop an understanding of what causes tooth decay, devise ways to prevent plaque and decay from forming and how make food choices that are healthier and can aid in prevention of plaque formation.

For the past 5 years the Community Health Center of Franklin County has operated a mobile dental hygiene program which allows a dental hygienist to visit 19 elementary schools throughout the county, which includes the Newton School. “We jumped at the opportunity to work further with the Greenfield School system and apply for funding to fortify our mobile hygiene program and bring it to the next level. Already we are putting together the data and thinking of ways to continue the best parts of this program.” said Cameron Carey, Development Director at the Community Health Center of Franklin County.

To learn more about the progress students have made as a result of this program The Newton School is inviting parents and area residents to take part in a Dental Fair on March 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. and talk to students, administrators from the Newton School and the Community Health Center.

The health center also offers comprehensive primary medical and dental care to everyone in Franklin County and the North Quabbin area, including those in the migrant and seasonal farm working population. The health center is very much aware of the unique needs of our area and partners with other health care and social service providers to improve and maintain the health and wellness of everyone in our area.

Please visit us at one of the addresses below:

489 Bernardston Road (Cherry Rum Plaza) Greenfield, MA

338 Montague City Road, Turners Falls MA

450 West River Street, Orange MA