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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Nearly 100 Children Served During Premier Community HealthCare's Annual Dental Event**

**DADE CITY, Fla. – (Feb. 7, 2017)** On Friday, Feb. 3, children throughout Pasco County received low-cost dental services during Premier Community HealthCare's ([www.premierhc.org](http://www.premierhc.org)) second annual Children's Dental Day. The event was held at Premier's dental facilities located in Dade City and Trinity from 7 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Children ages 1-17 received services throughout the day including: X-rays, cleanings, fluoride treatments, dental exams, sealants and fillings. Premier exceeded its goals by treating 99 unduplicated patients, 26 percent of those treated were new patients along with 28 percent being uninsured.

"We had a great turnout and were able to help a lot of children, many of whom had never been to a dentist or had not been in a while," said Dr. Jose Peralta, DDS dental director at Premier. "Oral health is integral to the overall health and wellbeing of children and adults."

According to the National Institute of Health, children should drink tap water instead of bottled water. Most bottled water does not contain enough fluoride to prevent tooth decay. Parents should help their children brush their teeth twice a day, serve healthy meals and snacks, take their children to the dentist and ask about putting on dental sealants.

As a community health center serving all, no one was turned away due to inability to pay and most insurance plans, including Medicaid and Florida KidCare, were accepted. In addition to dental services, children participated in oral health educational activities as well as received special gift bags after their dental exam.

**Premier Community HealthCare Group** is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that operates Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) dedicated to providing accessible healthcare for all. With 8 conveniently located offices throughout Pasco County to serve patients, Premier provides a full range of comprehensive primary care medical services that include Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Dental, Behavioral Health, Obstetrics and Gynecology. Premier has been committed to serving the medically underserved areas with its long-standing presence in Pasco County since 1979. Premier is one of more than 1,300 community health centers nationwide created by federal legislation that provides some funding for the facilities. The centers are required by law to cater to medically underserved populations.

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