

† CATHOLIC HEALTH  
INITIATIVES®

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# St. Joseph Health Ministries

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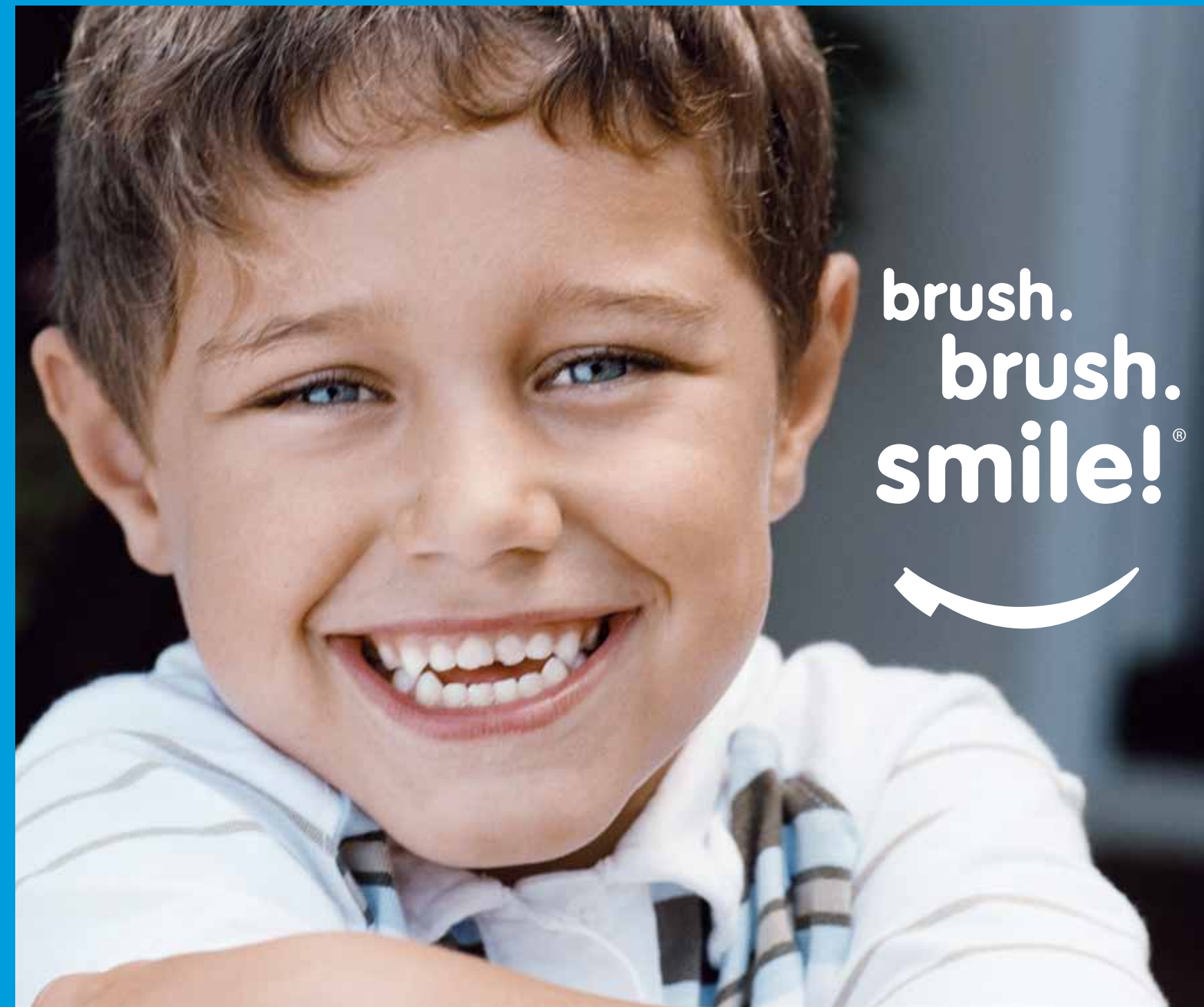
## St. Joseph Health Ministries

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brush.  
brush.  
smile!®



# Imagine

## that you had a terrible toothache

and suffered through a whole day because you couldn't get an appointment with a dentist until the next day.

Now imagine a 9-year-old suffering for years with pain in his mouth – a chronic pain that keeps him from focusing in the classroom and causes him to miss many days of school – because his parents can't afford to take him to a dentist.



### **'Silent Epidemic'**

A U.S. Surgeon General report called oral disease a “silent epidemic,” citing tooth decay's ranking as the most common chronic childhood disease. In fact, tooth decay is five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever.

### **Lancaster County**

An estimated 19,800 at-risk children in Lancaster County never visit a dentist even once in a year. Economically disadvantaged children are twice as likely to have untreated decay. Repeatedly, science has proved that oral health affects a child's overall health, well-being and development.

### **St. Joseph Health Ministries**

St. Joseph Health Ministries was created after the sale of St. Joseph Hospital, which itself played a vital role in community outreach for 117 years.

Since 2000, St. Joseph Health Ministries has worked to fulfill its mission to improve the health of children in need in Lancaster County. Our primary focus is on children's oral health, which we address through our children's oral health initiative, Brush. Brush. Smile!®

# Brush. Brush. Smile!®

In partnership with Lancaster County's 16 school districts and a number of community service organizations, Brush. Brush. Smile!® improves the health of economically disadvantaged children, from birth through high school, who otherwise would not have access to a dentist.

## Dental Services

Our two 40-foot mobile dental clinics – the Brush Brush Buses – are on the road 12 months out of the year, bringing much-needed dental care to our community. During the school year, you'll find the brightly colored buses parked outside schools throughout Lancaster County. Students have summers off, but not so our dental team, which turns its attention to seeing children in conjunction with community partners.

## Education

We provide oral health education to all ages. Our goal is to teach the importance of brushing and flossing daily and of proper nutrition to ensure healthy smiles. We use a combination of one-on-one health education, fun activities and games to demonstrate that there's nothing to fear – and a healthier mouth to gain –when visiting a dentist.

## BBS Connect

Once a child has been treated on one of our buses, we want to find him or her a permanent dental home. This is where Brush. Brush. Smile!® Connect comes into play. Through our trained program staff, children treated on the Brush Brush Bus may be referred to an area dentist for continued care. Our ultimate goal is to provide children a consistent place for dental treatment once our immediate care on the mobile clinic is completed. Our team is continually updated on available providers for children who are on Medicaid or are uninsured and who may need dental care.

## Dental Olympics

The Dental Olympics comprises four activities, overseen by a physical education instructor, that teach students about oral health while promoting physical fitness. The activities focus on brushing, flossing, food choices and what to expect during a visit to the dentist. For instance, "Plaque Attack" pits students – competing as dentists, teeth or plaque – in a game of freeze tag.



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## Advocacy

St. Joseph Health Ministries is an advocate for economically disadvantaged children in Lancaster County. We work with local, state and national organizations to increase access to oral health care and prevention efforts.

## Learn more

### [www.sjhm.org](http://www.sjhm.org)

Meet our dental team, keep up on news, take our two-minute brushing challenge. Once you've learned all about our efforts, we hope you will consider making a donation to help us put a smile on a child's face.

### Facebook

Keep up on all of our latest news and share that news with others by following us on Facebook. Just go to the home page of our Web site and click on the Facebook icon or go directly to [www.facebook.com/brushbrushsmile](http://www.facebook.com/brushbrushsmile).

### Newsletter

You can have St. Joseph Health Ministries delivered right to your home, too. We publish our colorful newsletter, Word of Mouth, every quarter. Call or email us to request a free mail subscription.

## You can help

### Adopt a Bus

As a sponsor of the Brush Brush Bus, your organization will be recognized with signs that appear on each side of the mobile dental clinic. The signs are 6 feet wide and 2 feet high and accommodate a business logo measuring 55 inches wide and 13 inches high. If you'd like to sponsor the bus for a month or longer, call us at 397-7625.

### Individual Contributions

Your individual contribution can provide oral hygiene kits, dental services or oral health education to children of all ages. To make a tax-deductible contribution to St. Joseph Health Ministries, visit [www.sjhm.org](http://www.sjhm.org) and click on the yellow "donate now" starburst in the upper right corner.

### A Lasting Gift

Please remember St. Joseph Health Ministries in your will. You can make a lifelong impact on health in this community. St. Joseph's offers a wide range of charitable-giving options to support the programs of St. Joseph Health Ministries.

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