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**FAYETTEVILLE (NC) CHAPTER OF THE LINKS, INCORPORATED PARTNERS
WITH COLGATE DENTAL VAN AND SCREENS HUNDREDS AT
WESTAREA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

FAYETTEVILLE, NC – Today, the Fayetteville (NC) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, in partnership with the Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures® Dental Van, screened 258 students in grades Pre-K through 5th grade at Westarea Elementary School. Westarea is in the Cumberland County Schools system and it serves a diverse community.

Local dentist and Links member Dr. Yvette Stokes screened all of the students. Backpacks with dental hygiene information, toothbrushes, toothpaste and more were distributed by volunteer Link members to each student who completed the screening.

The Dental Van outreach effort is an initiative of the chapter's Health and Human Services committee. This outreach project has become an annual event for the Fayetteville Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. It has been held in both Lumberton (NC) and Fayetteville (NC) public schools. Maria Adams, the chapter Health & Human Services (HHS) facet chairperson, led the effort that has now evolved to being a project supported chapter-wide by both the leadership and the members.

“Dental care is one of the most prevalent and chronic health conditions in school-age children that causes students to miss numerous days from school because of dental pain,” states Adams who is also a nurse in dentistry. “Dental screening can identify risks early and referrals can lead to treatment, therefore, improving overall dental health in children.”

Students who participated received a dental report card to share with their family and information to continue good dental health practices.

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