



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Jose Peralta

## State Senator Peralta Brings Bright Smiles, Bright Futures To Jackson Heights

JOSE PERALTA February 21, 2011

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State Senator Jose Peralta today helped bring Bright Smiles to the faces of children in Jackson Heights.

One of the vans in the Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures program fleet, staffed by volunteer dentists from the Queens County Dental Society, provided free dental screenings and education to children at The Renaissance Charter School.

The Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures program works to increase oral health literacy and promote good oral care habits. The program each year reaches 50 million children and their families across 80 countries with education and dental screenings.

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*“Tooth decay is the most common chronic disease of childhood, affecting nearly 60 percent of all children in the United States,” Senator Peralta said. “It causes pain and infections that lead to absences from school, eating problems and a loss of confidence. Sadly, many children do not have access to basic dental care and the education needed to maintain good oral health.*

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*“The good news is that this disease is preventable and through public-private partnerships we can provide valuable information and resources to children and their families,” Senator Peralta said. “Many thanks to Colgate for the great work it does through its Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures program and to the Queens County Dental Society for making the program available to the children and families of this community.”*

The Colgate Bright Smiles, Bright Futures fleet of eight mobile dental vans throughout the United States is staffed by volunteer dentists providing free dental screenings and education to children in need.