



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Theatre hosts 'Dental Health Day'

The State Theatre in downtown Traverse City will host a special event dedicated to children's dental health on Saturday, November 4, 2017. In addition to a showing of the movie "ToothFairy", dental assistants from Northwestern Michigan College will perform a fun, dental-themed skit and hand out free dental care kits. Kids can also look forward to special in-person appearances by Mykee the Dino and the Tooth Fairy. Admission is 25 cents for kids and adults. Doors open at 9am, and the show starts at 10am.

"We're excited to provide this fun activity for families while promoting oral health," said Emily Llore, coordinator for the Grand Traverse Region Oral Health Coalition. "In Northern Michigan, 1 in 5 kids under nine years old has untreated tooth decay, so it's important for families to learn how to prevent it. We also encourage families to connect to a dental home – a dentist's office where kids can get complete oral health care from a familiar face." Llore said they are also celebrating the one-year anniversary of the statewide expansion of Healthy Kids Dental program, which now provides all children with Medicaid under age 21 with free access to dental care.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," said Llore. "Personally, I'm looking forward to meeting the Tooth Fairy. And who can beat an admission price of just a quarter?"

Dental Health Day is a collaboration among the Grand Traverse Region Oral Health Coalition, Dental Clinics North, Northwest Michigan Health Services, Inc., Traverse Health Clinic, Northwestern Michigan College, and the State Theatre. The Grand Traverse Region Oral Health Coalition operates to coordinate outreach, education, screening, and treatment for all, with a focus on low income and special populations. Membership represents a diverse group of stakeholders who are dedicated to the health of their communities and understand that oral health and overall health are interlinked.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan, a member of the Grand Traverse Oral Health Coalition, is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, please call Emily Llore at 231-995-6129.