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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Something to Smile About

(Hillsdale, MI) The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency held a **VIP Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Building Tour** on Friday, February 18, 2011, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The event was well attended by state and local dignitaries. Senator Bruce Caswell and Representative John Kurtz, numerous county commissioners, hospital executives, dental professionals, health and human service personnel were among the distinguished guests. In total, more than 90 people participated in the event.



(In this photo, left to right: Robin Baker, Chair, Board of Health Chairman, Jennie Craddock, Aldon Craddock, Corbin Craddock, Steve Todd, Health Officer)

Steve Todd, Health Officer for the tri-county health department, was the master of ceremonies. In his opening remarks he thanked the Hillsdale County Community Foundation, Hillsdale County United Way, the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Health Plan and the Northern Foundation for their financial contributions. He stated, "This clinic represents the hard work and perseverance of many people over a 10-year period. The opening of this clinic is a celebration and a testimony to community collaboration." Senator Bruce Caswell followed, applauding the community for its commitment and reiterating his continued support for public health and the Medicaid Adult Dental Benefit. Representative Kenneth Kurtz also addressed the group, recognizing the community's support and dedication to oral health concerns.

Mr. Todd introduced the Craddock family as honored guests. Jennie Craddock, with sons Corbin and Aldon in tow, assisted with the ribbon cutting ceremony. Mr. Todd indicated that this family was selected because they represented both the community at large as well as families who would utilize the clinic. Corbin Craddock, age four years, cut the ribbon.

The clinic is located in a new addition of the health department. The clinic's address is at 20 Care Drive, Suite D, in Hillsdale. The clinic will begin seeing patients next week. It accepts both adult and children on Medicaid, as well as low income, uninsured individuals. Individuals whose incomes are below 200% of the Federal poverty income (i.e., below \$44,100 for a family of four) and who are without dental insurance coverage, can enroll in the Michigan Community Dental Plan for a one time fee of \$50. This fee entitles them to an oral examination, x-rays, treatment plan and a reduced fee schedule on treatment and procedures. People interested in learning more about how to register as a patient can call: 517-437-2654 or toll free: 877-313-6232; or visit the health department's website at: www.bhsj.org and click on Dental Clinic button.

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