



DENTAL PROGRAM

2024 - 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friend,

Healthy oral habits in childhood have a powerful, lifelong impact on overall health and well-being. Since 2012, Children's Friend has partnered with the Samuels Sinclair Dental Center at Rhode Island Hospital to bring dental screenings and hygiene services directly to the children and families we serve.

Early and consistent dental care lays the foundation for lifelong health. Through this partnership, children receive essential screenings and treatment, and families gain the education, guidance, and support they need to connect with a family dentist.

The Children's Friend Dental Program thrives thanks to the dedication of Samuels, our Policy Council and Board of Directors, and the skilled members of our team. Our program coordinators, teachers, and nurses work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure early oral health remains a priority for every child in our care.

Thank you for your commitment to Rhode Island's children.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Brannon

Lindsey Brannon
Health and Nursing Manager
Children's Friend





KEY OUTCOMES



Early Head Start Home Based

- 7 children received a dental assessment
- 11 children received a hygiene/fluoride treatment

Early Head Start Center Based

- 13 children received a dental assessment
- 1 child received a hygiene/fluoride treatment

Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships

- 9 children received a dental assessment
- 9 children received a hygiene/fluoride treatment

Head Start

- 112 children received a dental assessment
- 49 children received a hygiene/fluoride treatment



“DENTAL DAYS” REDUCE BARRIERS TO ACCESS

Over our 13-year partnership with Samuels, connecting Early Head Start infants and toddlers to dental care has often been a challenge. This year, we tested a new approach by hosting on-site “dental days” in Central Falls and Providence. Children’s Friend coordinated closely with dentists, nurses, and family advocates to schedule the events and ensure all services could be delivered directly at our sites.

Family advocates also worked with caregivers to identify barriers that might prevent attendance. Because of this coordination, we were able to provide transportation for several families, allowing young children, who might otherwise have gone without care, to receive dental screenings, cleanings, and treatment.

MEET OUR NURSING TEAM



Ariana Aracena
Berkshire and Dean



Katy Killilea
Althea, Dorcas, and Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships



Lindsey Brannon
Friendship



Brittany Pratt
Dexter, Heritage Park, and Carter



Donna Hulstyn
King, Hartford, and Tempo



children's friend

Nurturing Children. Empowering Families.