



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Catholic Charities of South Carolina works to save the smiles of those in need**

(CHARLESTON, SC) – In honor of National Dental Hygiene Month, Catholic Charities of South Carolina is celebrating its Save A Smile initiative. The program provides dentures to those in need and includes a comprehensive dental wellness workshop to provide education on the care and maintenance of their dentures.

The lack of functional teeth brings on many challenges including low self-esteem, various health-related issues, difficulty obtaining employment and a feeling of embarrassment and despair. “Dentures are not covered by Medicaid, so many can simply not afford a set of dentures. Catholic Charities established the Save A Smile program to solve that problem,” said Lydia Doyle, executive director of Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities receives funding from private donations, grants and foundations, but the need continues to grow and these funds are vital to providing the dentures. While over 700 individuals have been given the gift of a smile since the inception of the program, many others are waiting for one, two and sometimes up to 3 years for the phone call that changes their appearance and their lives.

The Save A Smile program serves the Upstate, Coastal, and Pee Dee areas of the state. For more information, please visit [charitiessc.org/wellness-services](http://charitiessc.org/wellness-services).

#### About the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston

Founded in 1820, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston is comprised of 114 parishes and missions, 32 Catholic schools, and 350,000 people. It encompasses the state of South Carolina.

#### About Catholic Charities of South Carolina

Founded in Charleston on March 15, 1945, Catholic Charities of South Carolina has been active for more than 75 years. Its mission is to provide care and services for South Carolinians in need.

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