

# Dr. James F. Quilty, Jr. Award for Champions of Oral Health



**Dr. James F. Quilty, Jr.** served as the Chief of the Division of Maternal and Child Health, Ohio Department of Health (ODH) from December 1980 to January 1993. Remembering the harmful effects of dental disease that he had seen in his pediatric patients over the years, Dr. Quilty knew that oral health was an important part of child health. As division chief, he “put some money where the mouths were.” Under his leadership, the ODH Oral Health Program became a model for what state dental public health programs across the country should be. More importantly, if not for Dr. Quilty and his support for oral health initiatives such as community water fluoridation and school-based sealant programs, many more children in Ohio would suffer tooth decay and its negative consequences.

In November 1992, Dr. Quilty announced his intention to leave his position as division chief. At a meeting in late November, the (then) Bureau of Dental Health voted to establish the Dr. James F. Quilty, Jr. Award for Champions of Children’s Oral Health. The purpose of the award was to recognize a group of people, a program, or an individual who had distinguished themselves through actions to promote the oral health of Ohio’s children at a community or state level. The first award was presented in December 1992, and the award has since been given annually to a deserving person or group.

In 2004, the award was renamed the Dr. James F. Quilty, Jr. Award for Champions of Oral Health to recognize efforts of recipients that result in improved oral health for all Ohioans, not only children. ODH continues to honor Dr. Quilty each year by presenting the award to a recipient who carries on his legacy of positively impacting the oral health of Ohioans.

## Past Recipients of the Dr. James F. Quilty, Jr. Award for Champions of Oral Health

- 2023** – The Ohio Dental Association, Access to Care Program
- 2022** – David Hoag, DDS
- 2021** – Marla Morse, Program Director, Oral Health Ohio (OHO)
- 2020** – Cincinnati Health Department School-based Health Centers
- 2019** – Don Sabol, MPA, Ohio Department of Medicaid
- 2018** – Michelle Deskins and Laura Longwell, RDH
- 2017** – Canise Bean, DDS, MPH
- 2016** – Vinod Miriyala, BDS, MPH, CAGS, DDS (co-recipient) Hamilton Local School District (co-recipient)
- 2015** – Cindy Payne, Dorothy Stratton and John Stratton
- 2014** – Summa Center for Dental Health
- 2013** – Janet Mesenburg, RN
- 2012** – The Humility of Mary Health Partners (HMHP) Foundation, the HMHP Oral Health Safety Net Dental Clinic and St. Elizabeth's Dental Residency Program
- 2011** – Gary Ensor, DDS
- 2010** – Dental OPTIONS Referral Coordinators
- 2009** – Homa Amini, DDS, MPH, MS
- 2008** – Rebecca Earlie, MPH, CHES
- 2007** – Barbara Stichter, RDH
- 2006** – Theresa Wukusick
- 2005** – Dental Center of Northwest Ohio
- 2004** – Healthy Smiles for Lancaster
- 2003** – Jenny Kattlove, Terri Donlin
- 2002** – Jackson County Dental Task Force
- 2001** – Lawrence Hill, DDS, MPH
- 2000** – Kathryn Peppe, RN, MS
- 1999** – Paul Casamassimo, DDS, MS
- 1998** – Robert Creedon, DDS
- 1997** – Nancy Goorey, DDS
- 1996** – Judith Taylor, RN
- 1995** – Jack Whittaker, DDS and John Gerstenmaier, DDS
- 1994** – Nancy Carter, RDH, MPH
- 1993** – Dian Partlow, RN
- 1992** – Middletonians for Dental Health