



*General Dentistry For Kids*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 2009

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## **Just Kids Dental Improves Access to Dental Care**

Baton Rouge, LA – Last week, a large group of influential civic, community and healthcare leaders gathered to celebrate the opening of Just Kids Dental, a new children’s dental clinic in historic Delmont Village. Mike Walker, Mayor-President Pro Tempore, read a proclamation from the city declaring February 26, 2009 as “Just Kids Dental” day.

“It was an honor to attend the ribbon cutting for the first Just Kids Dental clinic in Baton Rouge,” Walker said. “The clinic is a result of a tremendous private-public partnership. The Delmont Village Shopping Center, a long-time center piece of our community, has received a modern, technologically advanced dental clinic where children and young adults can receive critically important oral health care. I am proud of this partnership and welcome it to our community.”

Just Kids Dental attracted the attention of city leaders because it provides quality, affordable oral health care to a largely underserved portion of the population, children from low income families between the ages of one and twenty-one.

“Currently in Baton Rouge there is a tremendous gap in access to dental care for this population of children,” said Dr. Robin Levy, one of the founding dentists. “Tooth decay is the most common and chronic childhood disease, yet is the easiest to prevent.”

Few dental providers offer services to children who need to utilize federal or state insurance programs. Just Kids Dental is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and accepts both Medicaid and LaCHIP. The clinic is easily accessible to families in North Baton Rouge and the surrounding area.

Jill Dyason, East Baton Rouge School Board member and Just Kids Dental’s Community Development Director commented, “Statistics show that more than 51 million school hours are lost each year to dental-related illnesses. By addressing the healthcare needs of children, we improve not only their quality of life, but also their opportunities for educational success.”



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“Just Kids Dental provides easy access to dental services which contributes to the ongoing revitalization efforts in East Baton Rouge parish,” Dyason said.

Just Kids Dental is incredibly excited about partnering with the community and families to help prevent the devastating effects of tooth decay. The clinic utilizes state-of-the-art technology to increase the accuracy of treatment and efficiency of patient care. Designed with children in mind, the clinic creates a friendly and welcoming environment for both children and parents.

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**Attached photo caption** (from left to right): Senator Sharon Weston Broome, Representative Regina Barrow, Councilwoman Tara Wicker, Mayor-President Pro Tempore Mike Walker, EBR Parish School Board Member and Just Kids Dental Community Development Director Jill Dyason, Just Kids Dental founding dentist Dr. Robin Levy (cutting the ribbon), Councilwoman Denise Marcelle, Representative Patricia Haynes Smith, Baton Rouge Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Irma Plummer, EBR Parish School Board Member Darryl Robertson, and BJ Militello, Director of Member Services for the Baton Rouge Area Chamber.