



CITY OF MANCHESTER

Theodore L. Gatsas

Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Northeast Delta Dental Contributes to City Year New Hampshire

Donation marked for *Manchester in School on Track* Program

MANCHESTER, NH - - Northeast Delta Dental has pledged \$15,000 a year for three years to support the expansion of a mentorship program in the five at-risk Manchester public elementary schools. The 2010 contribution was presented to Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas and City Year New Hampshire this fall. The remainder of the funds will be paid out over the next two years.

"We're proud to support the City Year New Hampshire program in Manchester," said Thomas Raffio, President & CEO, Northeast Delta Dental. "Working on strategies to improve school graduation rates and prepare our students to give back to their communities is necessary for both Manchester and the entire state of New Hampshire. I am confident that the expansion of this program will help achieve that."

Mayor Gatsas added, "I am honored that Tom and the entire team at Northeast Delta Dental has chosen to sponsor this new initiative, and I look forward to reporting the positive progress we see coming from the schools and sharing the stories of the students, teachers and parents. Thank you to Tom and the Northeast Delta Dental team."

The City Year New Hampshire *Manchester in School on Track* team program focuses on early intervention of at-risk students with a goal of reducing the overall school dropout rate. The contribution from Northeast Delta Dental assists City Year to refocus and expand the program from one City middle school to five elementary schools. A total of 56 mentors have been deployed to five elementary schools in Manchester, Bakersville, Beech Street, Parker Varney, Gossler Park and Wilson.

Prior to moving the City Year New Hampshire program operation to Manchester City Year corps members previously served in the Seacoast and Merrimack Valley regions of the state as tutors, mentors and role models, primarily with middle school students who are at risk of dropping out of school.