



A youthful patient receives dental care as part of the Healthy Kids program.

Palo Alto Medical Foundation recently received the "Champion for Children Award." Supervisor John Leopold presented the award to Sutter Maternity & Surgery Center and the Palo Alto Medical Foundation - Santa Cruz Division in late January.

Santa Cruz County is one of nine counties participating in a Healthy Kids program, which has shown a 25 percent reduction in preventable hospitalizations for asthma, bacterial pneumonia, gastroenteritis and other common diseases.

Sutter and the Foundation have donated \$575,000 to pay for Healthy Kids premiums since 2004 and \$225,000 to subsidize the cost of premiums for low-income families for the Healthy Families program since 2003. ■