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With a last name like Spitz, it seems as though Dr. Steven was fated to pursue a career in dentistry. Now, at his cosmetic and implant dentistry practice, Smileboston, Spitz has fulfilled his destiny, working to make smiles throughout New England brighter and whiter. On Monday, Spitz and his team came to Chelsea to improve the smiles of children at the Chelsea Boys and Girls Club.

Spitz and Smileboston have pledged to donate \$30,000 in dental cosmetic and implant work to kids who can't afford to undergo necessary dental hygienic procedures. With state medical aid decreasing for those who need help, Spitz said even more kids are slipping through the cracks. Boston University runs a dental clinic at the Williams School that provides free screenings for Chelsea students, and although Spitz said this service is invaluable to younger children in Chelsea, older students aren't receiving the same level of care. He hopes to target some of these youths through his work at the Boys and Girls Club.

"Research has shown that there is an abundance of dental problems in areas of need," Spitz said. "We see too many kids walking around (covering their mouths with their hands), just embarrassed," Spitz said.

His philosophy is that "confidence begins with a smile," and this week he is carrying out his philosophy locally.



Dr. Steven Spitz examines Nadina Moric.

Smileboston conducted almost 100 free dental screenings to Chelsea Boys and Girls Club members Monday as part of a Family Health Day. Smileboston is involved with Pepsi's Pitch, Hit and Run with the Boston Red Sox, a program based on promoting dental health to kids in need through the Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Major League Baseball's official charity.

In addition to free oral-health screenings, Monday's events included toothprinting — a revolutionary new child

identification method — and fingerprinting by the Chelsea Police Department. The Chelsea Fire Department also was on hand to give safety tips.

The day included featured giveaways from Crest, promotions and samples from Pepsi, and "The Great Safety Adventure," two big rig trucks designed to teach kids about home safety through an interactive experience.

Players from the Boston Red Sox were expected to appear, too, but didn't show up. Representatives from the Red Sox could not be reached for comment.

Aside from the lack of involvement from the Red Sox, Spitz said the day was a great success nevertheless, with an all-star team of community leaders who talked with the kids.

"I felt this was a real nice package, working with all winners," Spitz said.

Josh Kraft, director of the Chelsea Boys and Girls Club, said he appreciated the work Spitz, his wife Laurie, and the Smileboston team was doing in Chelsea.

"I thought it was a fantastic event. It's important to expose the kids to proper dental hygiene procedures and to home safety tips," Kraft said.

The Spitzes, who live on Admiral’s Hill, said they were happy to help out in the community. Dr. Spitz volunteers at the New England Shelter for Homeless Veterans, teaches at the Harvard Dental School, and is involved in Chelsea charities such as Casa Maribel, but this was the first time he reached out specifically to children here. “Chelsea has given so much to us that when it came right down to it, we were happy to give something back,” Laurie Spitz said. Dr. Spitz agreed. “This was a great way for us to get involved in our community,” he said.

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