



SPEARE'S SCHOOL DENTAL PROGRAM:

Ruth Doane wins top honor in NH

Meet **Ruth Doane**, dental hygienist and program coordinator of Speare's Dental Health Program — and the New Hampshire Dental Association 2023 Dental Hygienist of the Year! Dr. Zane Broom, who presented the award, cited Ruth's amazing work and contributions to the oral health of underserved patients throughout the Lakes Region and North Country.

A certified public health dental hygienist, Ruth has provided free

or very low-cost dental care at twelve local pre-K to 12th-grade schools for the past twelve years. Students receive dental screenings, fluoride treatments, temporary fillings, interim therapeutic restorations, sealants, and general oral health care education. **The total value of the services provided this last school year totaled more than \$102,000.**

"No child is ever denied services because of their family's inability to pay," says Ruth. "This is

just one reason why this program is so valuable."

Speare's Dental Health Program was established twenty-five years ago in response to growing concerns of local school nurses about the unmet dental health needs of area children. Today, more than 20 area dental practices collaborate with Speare's Dental Health Program to care for children referred from the program because of more serious dental concerns. ♦

SCHOOL YEAR 2022-23

Ashland Elementary (K-8)
Campton Elementary (Pre K-8)
Holderness Central (K-8)
Lin-Wood Schools (K-12)
Plymouth Elementary (Pre K-8)
Rumney, Russell Elementary, (K-8)
Thornton Central (K-8)
Warren Village (Pre K-8)
Waterville Valley Elementary (K-8)
Wentworth Elementary (K-8)
Plymouth Regional High School (9-12)
Plymouth Area Head Start (Pre-K)

STUDENTS ENROLLED

159
292
181
275
406
85
185
67
51
69
598
13

STUDENTS RECEIVED SERVICE

89
210
83
144
277
65
105
35
33
35
129
7

