



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Local Dentist Supporting Our Troops, Veterans and their Families**

Coastal Cosmetic Family Dentistry 6th Annual Freedom Day

**Bolivia, NC - October, 2018** - Coastal Cosmetic family Dentistry hosted its 6<sup>th</sup> annual Freedom Day event on Thursday October 11<sup>th</sup>. Drs. Tony Michelakis, Aaron Wilharm, Darren Harrington, Matt Miller, Greg Hohl, Mark Dobransky, and their staff provided free dental care for active military, their families and veterans at the Bolivia and Oak Island locations.

**Dr. Aaron Wilharm** shared his thoughts on the event, " we look forward to this day each year; the opportunity to say a sincere thank you to those that serve our country. We do this by doing what we love to do...give people their smile back." Jackie Pappas, Director of Community Relations, added that "this year over \$50,000 in treatment was donated to patients. Were able to get many patients out of pain as well as to do some much-needed maintenance and restoration on others. We had an almost overwhelming amount of calls this year and scheduled as many patients as possible. Seeing patients hugging our staff after treatment and leaving with a smile means the world to us."

The photos on their Facebook albums illustrate the staff's devotion and the patient's gratitude.

To date, Coastal Cosmetic Family Dentistry has donated over \$250,000 in services through its Freedom Day events and they look forward to hosting again next year. Coming up in late October, Coastal Pediatric Dentistry will host their annual Halloween 'Candy Buy-Back' program reimbursing kids who bring in their Halloween candy in from Nov 1st – Nov 5th. Kids will receive a small monetary reimbursement and a chance to win an IPAD mini in a random drawing.

In 2017 164 lbs. of candy was donated shipped to Operation Gratitude for inclusion in care packages to U.S. Service Members deployed overseas in harm's way and to First Responders serving at home. Details will follow on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/coastalcosmeticfamilydentistry/>