

## Helping Iowa Smile – Kaitlyn, Nyapal, & Osiel, Storm Lake



Delta Dental of Iowa and its Foundation have been listening to community partners and residents from Storm Lake for a while now, working to see how Iowa's largest provider of dental benefits and oral health funder can make a difference for Storm Lake residents. We work together to support dentists in the area to provide additional resources for care, and to support water fluoridation in the Storm Lake community. Recently, we checked in with a few area residents to see how our partnerships are working.

Lisa, who moved with her family from California, loves the small-town atmosphere and friendly people she's met in Iowa. She's grateful for the services that are available for Kaitlyn and her other children, including increased access to dental care in Storm Lake. "Kaitlyn is comfortable at the dentist now," she says. "The dentist was able to get us in, and he worked to make Kaitlyn feel like a trip to the dentist was an adventure."

Nyapal loves the little extras that come with visiting the dentist as much as the experience itself. "I like when they brush my teeth – and we get a prize at the end," she says with a smile. Her mom, Nyadak, says, "The schools are good, the services are good. She would have never had a chance to see the dentist like this in Africa."

Osiel and his siblings see the dentist every six months at a dentist in town, which makes it easier for his working parents to get them there. "It's great that they're close by – we don't have to take off work to drive somewhere else," said Herminia, Osiel's mom.

All three families enjoy increased access to local care, and enjoy the benefits of community water fluoridation supported by the Delta Dental of Iowa Foundation. Through the partnerships in this community, kids like Kaitlyn, Nyapal, and Osiel will enjoy greater oral health through dentist visits – and by drinking the water!