

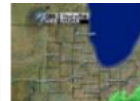
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Share your treats with the troops

Don't want all that left-over Halloween candy sitting around for you... err... your kids to eat?

[Crystal Lake Dental Associates](#) will buy it from you, pack it up and send it to the military.

The dental group is working with JA Frate and [Operation Gratitude](#), which sends care packages to American troops throughout the world.

Dr. Phillip Neal of Crystal Lake Dental Associates decided to host the Halloween candy buy back program after hearing about a similar effort in Wisconsin.

"It's a good thing for everybody," said Shauna Neal, his wife and office manager.

Children perhaps will consume less sugar and the troops will get some treats, which likely will arrive by or around Christmas, she said.

"A lot of the time that stuff just hangs around," she said. "Kids and adults get into it more than they probably need to."

Dental Associates will offer \$1 a pound, up to five pounds, for the candy from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 1, at its office, located at 280-B Memorial Court in Crystal Lake. The candy must be unopened.

Three servicemen are expected to be on-hand at the event, which also will include the give-away of Firefly glowing toothbrushes, a raffle for an iPod, refreshments, prizes and the opportunity to sign a giant card for the troops.

Consuming candy on Halloween is not a bad thing, Shauna Neal said, as long as it's done in moderation.

"The biggest trouble is that when people eat sweets like that, they don't go brush their teeth, especially at night," she said. "It's that sugar that sits on there and eats the teeth."

Global sugar consumption increases about 2 percent annually, and now sits at 50 million tons a year, according to the dental group.

Hard candy, such as suckers, are the worst for teeth, Shauna Neal said.

This way, children can buy themselves some other treat with the cash reward they earn for selling their candy, she said.

"We wanted to make it a fun thing, and a good thing at the same time," she said.

For more information on the program go [here](#) or call (815) 459-2202.



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