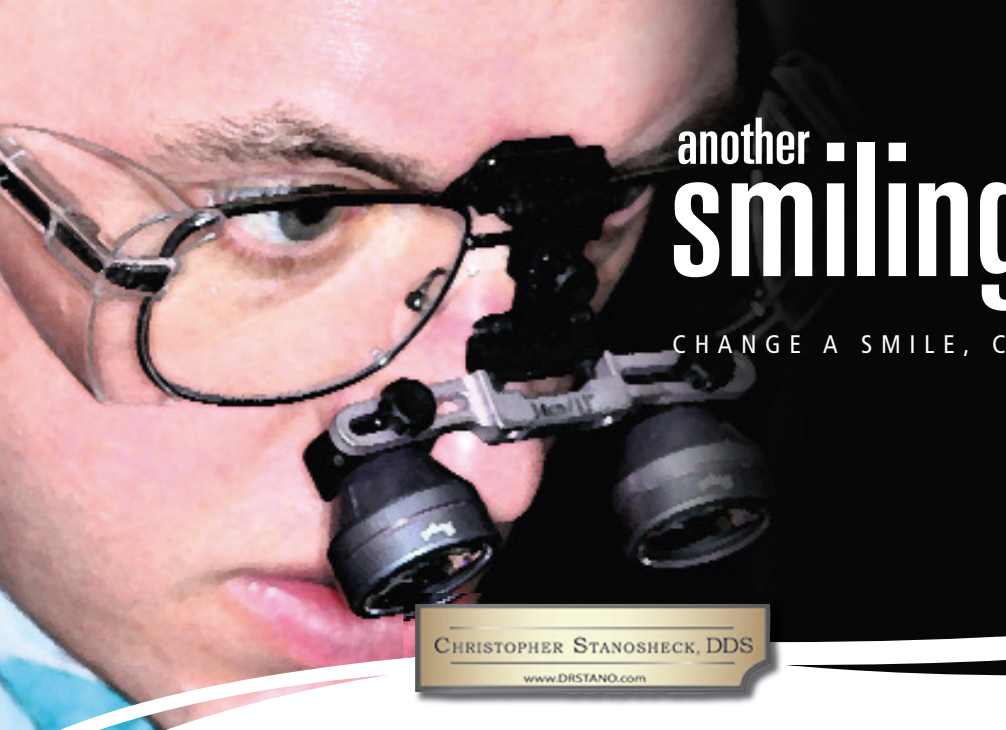


another smiling success

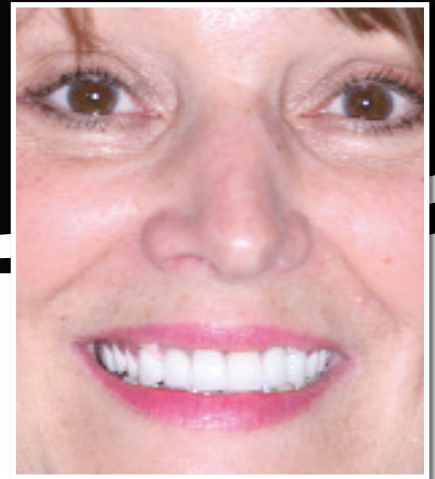
by dave link

CHANGE A SMILE, CHANGE A LIFE PROGRAM



CHRISTOPHER STANOSHECK, DDS

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Dr. Christopher Stanosheck has always realized what a smile says about someone. "I've always seen a smile as a window to the rest of the body," Stanosheck says. A bad smile, or teeth in disrepair and you assume the rest of the body is like that."

However, he believes that a smile is not always representative of the person to which it belongs. Because others make assumptions based on outward appearance, Dr. Stanosheck decided to make the exterior match the interior for one person each year with his "Change A Smile, Change A Life" program.

Since 2007, Stanosheck's Smile Design Studio has chosen one person from a pool of applicants to receive a smile makeover, with all of the time and work donated by Dr. Stanosheck and his staff. The concept for the program was inspired by the recent string of extreme makeover television shows that have exploded in popularity across America. However, the overall goal of the program, to provide a breath-taking smile to someone who was unable to do so by themselves, was something unique and untouched by other dental caregivers.

Because of the high cost attached to aesthetic and functional dentistry, more than 50 applicants applied to be chosen as the recipient of a sparkling white smile. In 2008, the pool of 50 was narrowed down to three top candidates who were seen to be the best candidates for Stanosheck and his staff. Of those top three, Mary Whitney was eventually chosen as the 2008 "Change A Smile, Change A Life" patient.

"I couldn't believe it," said Mary. "I was jumping up and down, yelling 'I got it! I got it!' when I heard the voicemail that Dr. Stanosheck's office had left for me."

Mary was in for an extensive set of procedures that included six veneers, a removable partial, laser gum reconstruction and six weeks of appointments and office visits. For her entire life Mary had been spot treating problems that popped up from time to time when it came to her teeth. A broken tooth here, root canal or cap there; but this opportunity was her chance at a complete dental overhaul. Perhaps the most amazing reason behind Mary's gradual dental deterioration is not the lack of care. She brushed and flossed daily and made it to regular checkups as any dentist will recommend. Instead, Mary chose to forgo spending money on herself in an effort to help others in her family.

As part of the application process Mary's daughters, Jessica and Julie, both wrote of how their mother had passed on care for herself in order to care for them; making sure all of their needs were met. After her responsibilities to her daughters were fulfilled, Mary again passed on care for herself in order help ease the cost of occupational and speech therapy for her grandson who was recently diagnosed with high functioning autism.

"Mary was an absolutely wonderful patient for this kind of thing," Stanosheck said. "She was someone who had done everything right, had done great things for other people. It was such a predictable result for someone who was such a great candidate."

Mary's selflessness carried through even as she was one of the finalists in the program. "I'm still just so thrilled that they chose me out of those who need this kind of work. I even told Dr. Stanosheck at my consultation that I didn't care if it was me that

he chose, just the fact that he was doing this for someone was great," she said with a wide-open grin.

What Mary has appreciated most from the entire experience is the way her new smile has altered her life. After hiding her decaying teeth for years she's had to retrain herself how to smile without consciously making an effort to cover her teeth with her upper lip. Working at the Qwest Center, Holland Performing Arts Center and the Orpheum theatre has given her plenty of opportunity to work on displaying her pearly whites, and has been nothing but positive.

"She's just so much more confident and so happy," says John, Mary's husband. "It's effected her in such a great way. There are a lot more smiles around the house."

Mary has been so appreciative of the work that Dr. Stanosheck and his staff provided that she often finds it hard to gather the words to accurately describe how she feels.

"How do you thank someone for improving your life in such a huge way? I just can't believe that I was lucky enough to receive such a great gift. I'm truly grateful for everything they've given me."