

Changing People's lives – a Great Motivator!

We've all had days when we wonder why we are in dentistry. Nothing seems to go right and the day is filled with one frustration after another. Those are the days when a pep talk is in order. A motivating pep talk might include one or all of the following patient stories:

- She who lingered at every mirror on her way to her car in disbelief that her teeth could ever look this good and tells you that you are heroes.
- He who experienced instantaneous relief from pain and couldn't thank you enough for what you had done.
- The family who sends you all of their friends and enthusiastically raves to everyone about how great you are.
- Those who travel to your practice, no matter how far, because they are devoted to you for life. With skilled hands and sympathetic ears you've changed people's lives for the better – and isn't that the greatest motivator for remaining devoted to dentistry!

Of all of the motivating stories that lift my heart this is one of my favorite. It begins with tragedy and a plea for help. In the end People's lives were changed.

The tragedy began with breast cancer that devastated Suzanne physically, medically, emotionally, and financially. The tiny snippets of her letter asking for help tell it all.....

"I guess that's the part where I get scared. My teeth are starting to decay rapidly. I am starting to feel pain. I know it is just a matter of time before something drastic will happen to one of my teeth or infection will set in due to the decay and I will absolutely freak out. The inside of a person, their heart and soul is so very important and without that, your smile will not shine

"I would however, be deeply filled with gratitude for a chance to get the help I need in restoring my dental health that is so desperately needed. My future not only medically but also psychologically depends on your help."

"Sincerely, Keep Smiling Suzanne Wood"

Her story has a happy ending. Dr. Kris Volchek of CASS (Central Arizona Shelter Services) Dental Clinic opened his heart and provided the care and treatment she needed. He also provided her with hope. With a brighter future ahead, Suzanne has offered to volunteer at the clinic. If you would like to join the distinguished list of CASS volunteers visit www.cass-az.org.

What is your favorite story of Changing People's Lives? I would love to share it with others – after all, there are days when we could all use the motivation!