

# Above and Beyond

*Karen Raymond helps women in need of smile makeovers*

It's easy to take our teeth and smile for granted.

But for many women, a smile of which they're proud eludes them. Maybe it's a lack of good dental hygiene or access to professional dental care. Or, maybe it's because their smile — and, for many, self-esteem — has been destroyed at the hands of domestic abuse.

The latter is one reason Karen Raymond of The Center for Cosmetic and Family Dentistry devotes much of her time to coordinating smile makeovers and helping the practice raise money for various charitable organizations.

One of those is the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry's Give Back a Smile program, which pairs an abused woman with a cosmetic dentist, who gives her a new smile.

"It's an amazing feeling because you get to see women that have very low self-esteem," Raymond says of the makeovers. "Many of them won't smile. And then they come out of the treatment room and come into the reception area and they smile. And they're crying. And we're crying."

One makeover recipient, Barbie, shared her experience while at the hands of Karen and her husband, Dr. Greg Raymond, DDS.

"Dr. Raymond and his team made everything pleasant, friendly and



Mrs. Netherlands 2010 Linda Gausachs Grandia and Karen Raymond

they gave me back my smile," Barbie says.

The Raymonds also have donated their time to the Circle City Swan smile makeover for Fox59 and have donated their office and supplies to be used as a free emergency dental clinic by the Partnership for a Healthier Johnson County.

The Raymonds have helped raise money for Nathan's Battle, a Greenwood-based organization to support Nathan Milto in his fight against Batten's disease, a degenerative neurological disorder. They've also sponsored Julian Center events, helping raise \$250,000 for the organization.

Involved in dentistry for more than 30 years, Karen travels to dental offices and speaks about discerning different personality types and how that can lead to a more effective practice.

But it's clear that Karen is most proud of the smile makeovers she helps coordinate for those in need.

"We have seen hundreds of patients whose lives have been changed and enriched," she says. "They believe in themselves again, in what was inside them, and we just had to help them find it. "I know it may seem odd to put so much value on a smile, but a smile reflects your inner soul and helps to make the world a happier place to those around you." ■

## WHY DID MRS. NETHERLANDS FLY TO FRANKLIN, INDIANA FOR HER SMILE MAKEOVER?



She had two good reasons!

Dr. Gregg Raymond, D.D.S., F.A.G.D. does world-class work in the field of cosmetic dentistry. But perhaps more importantly, he shares Mrs. Netherlands' commitment to helping rebuild the lives of women harmed by abuse.

Dr. Raymond, the contestants in the Mrs. Globe pageant and the W.I.N. Foundation have all devoted countless hours to help women around the world and in Indiana transition from victims to live lives of renewed vision and purpose.

Now these women feel beautiful, both on the outside and the inside.

← Linda Gausachs Grandia, Mrs. Netherlands 2010



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