



Smiles Change Lives  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Changing Lives, One Smile at a Time  
*Orthodontic practices join national charity to provide healthy smiles for underserved kids*

**Minneapolis, MN:** A child's joyful smile is contagious. However, some children are afraid to smile because they are embarrassed by their teeth. In today's economy, this situation can be heartbreaking for families who do not have the resources to pay the full cost of orthodontic treatment.

Thanks to hundreds of caring orthodontists and one national charity, families have an opportunity to help their children obtain affordable orthodontic treatment. Smiles Change Lives (SCL) is now serving low-income kids in the Minneapolis area thanks to the dedication of local orthodontists.

Due to the generosity of the Minnesota Dental Association and a new Smiles Change Lives provider, one young lady will receive a full scholarship to this program – just in time for the holidays.

Dr. Doug Vayda from Eden Prairie Orthodontic Associates has recently joined SCL to help local children smile with confidence. In fact, Dr. Vayda would like to donate care to 20 Smiles Change Lives-approved youth annually.

"I'm so pleased to be a part of this program and help the kids and families who need, but cannot afford orthodontic treatment," says Dr. Vayda. "Giving back is a big part of our practice's commitment to service and Smiles Change Lives makes it easy for us to find the children who have the greatest need," he adds.

SCL requires that each approved patient's family pay a \$500 program fee in return for full orthodontic treatment. However, during this one-time opportunity, Brianna Joy-Vidmer of (town) will be awarded a full scholarship to the Smiles Change Lives program from the Minnesota Dental Association.

### **SCL is actively seeking program applicants who meet these criteria:**

- 10-18 years old
- Household taxable income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level
- Crooked teeth and/or misaligned jaws
- Good oral hygiene

### **Smiles Change Lives currently has more than 100 immediate program openings in the Twin Cities area.**

Interested families are encouraged to review the program's financial guidelines at [www.smileschangelives.org/qualify](http://www.smileschangelives.org/qualify). Educators, nurses, counselors and oral health professionals are encouraged to nominate or refer candidates to this program. Visit [www.smileschangelives.org/apply](http://www.smileschangelives.org/apply) to download an application in English or Spanish or call (888) 900-3554 to request more information or an application by mail.

Many orthodontists have joined SCL to help provide better care to youth in the Minneapolis area who cannot afford treatment and don't qualify for other assistance. The doctors will donate their time and talents to treat SCL-approved patients. Minneapolis area orthodontists who have generously donated their time and skills to SCL can be found at [www.smileschangelives.org/orthos](http://www.smileschangelives.org/orthos) and include:

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Smiles Change Lives (SCL) promotes and provides access to life-changing, essential orthodontic treatment to children from low-income families. With a growing demand nationwide, our vision is to provide access to braces for all youth suffering from crooked teeth and misaligned jaws. Since 1997, SCL has created more than 1,500 healthy smiles.