



Meet the Winners of the Solace Oral Surgery “Smile” Giveaway

By Jaime A. Romero, Jr., D.D.S.

Dr. Romero and his wife Eva are involved in numerous charitable organizations that are close to their heart. He loves to inspire youth and help others in need. For the past two years, Solace Oral Surgery has had a “Smile” giveaway which provided a new smile for someone in need. At Solace Oral Surgery, the phrase “All that is good begins with a SMILE” is put into practice. Please read the inspiring stories of Caroline and Katrina, the past two winners.



Smile Winner, Caroline Lusk

Everyone goes through seasons of life when heartache seems closer than hope, and tears come easier than smiles. For Caroline Lusk, that season has been long and exhausting. Like so many others, she witnessed her parent’s divorce. Many years later, she lost her father in a motorcycle accident at the hand of an impaired driver. The years in between and after held additional struggles. To cope with her circumstances, she developed an unhealthy relationship with food that sent her to multiple treatment centers and threatened her well-being—physically and psychologically.

Over time, she achieved stability, enabling her to move forward with life. She met and married a wonderful Christian man, had two healthy children and began to embrace the reality of grace that allows one to emerge from darkness into a new day.

Life wasn’t perfect. There were relapses.

As a writer and non-profit professional, she was and continues to be engaged in either ministry or philanthropic work. It’s the kind of work she did and still does believe in, but in industries that are volatile at best, it’s never been a sure thing.

Beyond that, her health history had left its mark. Nearly 20 years of acid reflux had worn away the enamel on her teeth, compromising their stability and health.

When she happened upon the Smile Giveaway from Solace Oral Surgery, it was as though once again the heavens opened and mercy rained down. Finally, she would be able to regain oral health, whereby improving her physical well-being. More than that, this opportunity meant that the smile that had been emerging inside, out of the wake of great loss, could now be reflected on the outside.

Today, she is celebrating a new season. One in which hope redeems heartache and smiles wipe away the tears.



Smile Winner, Katrina Robertson

For Katrina Robertson, winning the contest was a dream come true! Katrina has risen above a very troubled past, overcoming drug addiction, abuse, prostitution, a criminal record, and 28 years of life on the streets, where she felt like she “was going to die.” Her personal journey of redemption started at Magdalene House, a recovery program which helps

women overcome addictions, learn life skills, and clean up their credit and criminal past. This is where she encountered the God who she credits for her climb up from rock bottom, now 10 years ago.

And she hasn’t stopped telling others her story. She is a public speaker, sharing with churches, dorms, and anyone who will listen. Not only does she give back, but she has also been blessed. She has a new home, a wonderful husband, and a reconciled relationship with her daughter. She also works as the national sales director for Thistle Farms, which provides on-the-job training to residents of Magdalene House as well as funding. Her life has come full circle, helping those who are in the same place she was when she needed help the most.

One of the many repercussions she has dealt with as a result of her past is her teeth, or, rather, lack of upper teeth. Katrina’s temporary solution for her missing teeth was a bridge. There were complications with using the bridge. First, she couldn’t eat without it falling out. Also, her teeth wouldn’t stay in when she was public speaking, which was embarrassing. She wasn’t confident in her smile, even though she had a lot of joy to share.

When Solace Oral Surgery with Dr. Romero ran a contest, it seemed like the perfect solution. Katrina wrote up her story, which she is so good at sharing, and sent it in. She had a consult to make sure that she was a good candidate, and then she found out she was the winner! She was overjoyed at the prospect of all her bridge and missing teeth issues being permanently resolved.

Soon after, Katrina underwent the “All-on-4” treatment to provide her with a same-day, fixed, full-arch prosthesis. Normally, permanent tooth implants involve multiple procedures and extended time. But Dr. Romero gave Katrina a new smile in one day. Katrina said she was thankful for the opportunity to have this done and was thankful to have her husband and daughter take care of her after the procedure.

One major after-effect after procedure is that she can’t stop smiling, describing her new teeth as “beautiful.” Katrina said, “More than fixing teeth, it’s getting your self-esteem back, your personality back. And it gives me hope about people, that there are good people in the world.”

Dr. Romero, one of those good people, would agree. In fact, it’s on their website: “We believe everyone deserves to show off their happiness.”

Katrina is certainly showing off her happiness with her new, gorgeous smile.

To learn more, please call Solace Oral Surgery at 615-320-1392, or visit us online at www.SolaceOralSurgery.com.