



Success Stories:
Two of our Recently Completed
Orthodontic Smiles!



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WRIGHT & ZELAZNY

D.D.S., P.C.

Family and Cosmetic Dentistry

www.wzdds.com

Paying it Forward to 7th Generation

We are all awash in requests from charities for donations. The USA remains the most charitable nation on this planet, (which is remarkable when you consider the disdain that much of the world has for us). Every day we are asked to wear pink but also be “green”; save the planet but spare the red tipped left-handed orb owl; and give back to every school, society, club, sorority, or library that you have chanced upon. Children everywhere seem to be raising funds for trips, Eagle Scout activities, band teams, and school activities.

Every natural disaster is coupled with celebrities mugging for the camera as they ask for your cash. Man, I miss the Hari Krishnas... at least they begged with a certain style...

The point is, all of us try to do everything that we can but we also have to have a strategy for our charity giving.

Otherwise it can consume us. At our office, we have always looked for ways to use our dental skills for the needy efficiently. I particularly like programs that have little or no paperwork and that find truly needy people, (so that we don't

neglected or abandoned them. My Grandfather lived most of the first 12 years of his life in orphanages, so I have a soft spot for these children.

Seventh Generation has asked us to provide dental and orthodontic services for these

children and we have been very happy to play this role, (we receive no compensation, of course). I attended a fundraiser for the charity this year and I was humbled when several kids, including one wonderful young lady with our braces gleaming from her teeth, got up and spoke to the crowd

of adults. She went on to say what a difference Dr. Wright had made to her, how kids had made fun of her because of her buck teeth but now her smile was something that made her proud. I didn't know that this was going to happen, and heck, I was kind of embarrassed. I never want to say much about charity work; it seemed like that



have to decide who is “needy”). One such program was brought to us by Maureen Movold, our hygienist from the Franklin office. She is involved with the charitable arm of the Detroit Bar Association, Seventh Generation. They care for kids who are wards of the court, oftentimes wonderful kids who have had parents that have

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David A. Wright D.D.S. ♦ Donald J. Zelazny D.D.S.

*Office Manager: Julie Corbin Front Office Staff: Barb, Charlene, Carrie
Dental Assistants: Patti, Kara, Tiffany, Jeanie, Heather
Hygienists: Karen, Maureen, Amy, Jennifer, Mary, Jeanette, Bridget, Michele, Katie*

Wright Angles: The Cat's on the Roof

A favorite story of mine goes like this:

Two sons in their early thirties still live at home with their mother. One day the older, more responsible of the two has to leave home for a week-long business trip and he is overly concerned about his prized possession, his pet cat. He begs his younger, less responsible brother to take good care of his pet before he leaves, receiving a “Don’t worry dude” on the way out the door.

The first night he calls home, only to hear his brother proclaim “Sorry bro, your cat’s dead — ran out into the street and *splat!*”. The older brother was clearly upset, and not just with his brother’s carelessness, but even more so with his clumsy delivery of the terrible news.

“That is not how bad news should be handled” he scolded his brother. “On the first day, you should have told me that the cat is stuck on the roof, but don’t

worry, the fireman will get her down safely. The second day, you could have said that the cat fell, but is receiving the best veterinarian care and should be fine. On the third day, you could break it to me that there was a complication, a minor surgery is indicated, but she is in great hands. This could go on, until finally, around the sixth day, you could have let me know that, despite everyone’s best efforts, the cat passed away and is resting peacefully.”

The younger brother considered this and mumbled an apology.

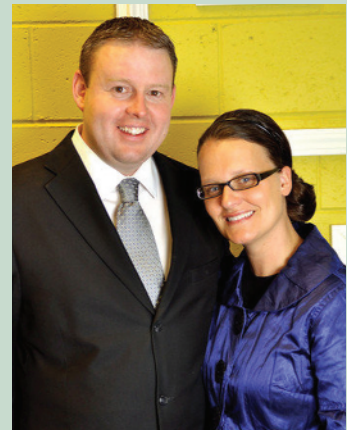
After gathering himself, the older brother finally asked “So how’s Mom?” — to which the younger brother thought for a second, cleared his throat and said: “Mom? Well, Mom’s on the roof...”

It has always seemed that there is a time to let people know that “the cat’s on the roof” and prepare them for bad news

BUT there are times to just deliver bad news in the best manner possible. When we see older fillings that are likely to need replacing in the future, we take the “Cat’s on the Roof” approach and let you know that replacement will be necessary soon, but not now. If you have a tooth that needs immediate attention, however, we are more direct. We never prescribe treatment unless it is actually needed now. In that case immediate treatment often saves money. People sometimes will ask if they can delay treatment; we try to advise the path that is the least costly and easiest over the longer term. I am in awe that there are thousands of people in this world that allow us to guide them away from dental trouble and to tell them when the cat is dangerously close to the roof. This is a responsibility that we carry with a glad heart. Thank you for trusting us with such an important task for the last 23 years!! — Dr. Dave

Patient Profile: Steve Warman, Author & Pastor

Those of you that have visited our Facebook Fan Page (facebook.com/wzdds) have seen the blurb about our resident songstress Charlene and the success of her church choir, winning the People’s Choice Award at the Verizon *How Sweet The Sound* Contest (http://www2.howsweetthesound.com/media/video_player/2010/144/2010+detroit). The church is The Apostolic Church in Auburn Hills and the leader of the church is Steve Warman. Besides running one of the larger churches in the area, Steve is also an accomplished author. He has two books to his credit, *The Second Try* and *Walking On Dragons*, both in the self-help/spirituality genre. We are lucky enough to have Steve, his lovely wife Renee and their children as patients!



Digital cameras are one of the most popular gifts every holiday season. Many of you know of my passion for photography. I got this from my father, who is an avid photographer. We had a dark room in my house growing up where I loved to work on black and white photography. While I loved doing that, I love digital photography even more. It is simpler, involves no chemicals, and even novices can get stunning images.

For over a year now I have been taking the portrait photos featured in these newsletters. This is truly rewarding as I get to interact with patients who are proud to show off their beautiful smiles after Dr. Dave has finished orthodontics, or I get to document a patients' beautiful smile after I have given them porcelain veneers.

People don't always know what to do with all these photos. Too often I hear of someone never downloading their photos, or having them in only one place and losing them to a computer crash. I'm going to give some simple tips for computers storage and manipulation of photos that may help you with your new digital toy:

1. Card Reader: If you have a digital camera, I am going to assume you have a computer to store them. If you are intimidated by this because you are not



Photo: Don Zelazny,
Seward, Alaska

Picture This

sure how to hook up your camera, there is an easier way. The photographs on most digital cameras are stored on a memory card that can easily be removed from the camera and placed in a "Card Reader". This is a small item (around \$25) that plugs into a USB port on your computer. The cards from any camera can be loaded onto your computer using a card reader.

2. Storage on the computer: Images are stored on non-Mac computers in a file called MY Pictures. You can use your computers built in software to view the photos but the easiest and best program I have found to use for this is a free program from

Google called **Picasa**. This wonderful program can be downloaded for free from picasa.google.com. This is a program for organizing and doing minor editing. For most folks, there is no need to buy a big expensive photo editing program like *PhotoShop* when Picasa can do most of the simple editing easily and for free. You can crop photos, remove red eye, straighten photos very easily and even do a few more advanced editing jobs.

You can also organize your photos into "albums". With Picasa it is also very simple to email photos or send them to your favorite online photo printer if you want prints done. Picasa also handles movies and can easily upload your movies to a **YouTube** account if you have one.

3. Backup: This is perhaps the most critical. Whatever you do, don't keep your valuable photos in only one place. Picasa has a feature called *Web Albums* where you can upload photos to an online photo album. A certain amount of storage is free, and extra storage is cheap. I back up my favorite photos to my Picasa Web Albums. I have burned many of my photos onto storage cds which I have placed in a safe deposit box. I think cds will eventually go the way of the floppy disc however, so I am also backing up my photos on portable thumb drives which are easy to use. Many

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I have lived in Michigan for most of my life but I have never adjusted to the lack of light as winter approaches. These "short days" always throw me. I feel betrayed each year as I realize that my summer "ideal" of sunlight until ten o'clock is long gone. The problem is, I don't seem to notice the light change until one day, I am driving home from work in complete darkness, and it hits me: Darn! They got me again!

I think that aging is a little like this. Every year on October 23, (my date of hatching), I have a similar internal "surprise!" when I think of another year passing. Next year two biggies happen: My first child, Natalie, goes off to college AND I turn 50. I am not one to freak out about aging, but let's face it, you don't see any 50 year-olds on American Idol, if you get my drift. I suppose it is time to retire the word "Dude" from my lexicon. Still, I really feel

Circadian Thoughts

like the same "dude" that I have always been. I always thought by 50 I would have gained greater mental clarity. Instead, I just can't find my keys. Oh well.

I mentioned Natalie, 17, is heading off to college as she begins a career in journalism. At the time of this writing she had only heard back from one school, (a "yes" to MSU), of her nine applications. All I know is that every college campus I visit with her seems absolutely awesome. Sophomore Daniel, 15, had an up and down first year of Varsity soccer and is now happily back with his club "travel" team. He is starting to talk a little about college... and coming from an X-Box 360 (a video game) addict, I take that as a good sign. Julia, 12, is a 7th grader and is pretty

heavy into singing and acting. I now have license to label her "A Drama Queen". Speech Pathologist wife Peggy is working full time, half with St. Joes and half with her own practice. Life is busy but life is very good.

This will be our last Christmas with all of us living under the same roof. And Christmas morning is forever altered when you don't have any more youngsters excited about Santa. I can't say that I am sad or melancholy about these changes, I just have that familiar feeling: Darn! They got me again! Geez dude, just give me a little sunlight and I'll be O.K.

Have a great Holiday season and God Bless. I hope 2011 is a really, really great year for us all!
— Dr. Dave



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Social Media

There is a great skit from the *Tonight Show with Jay Leno* pitting two young “texters” against two, more senior guests who are master “morse-codists...” Each team was given the same message to transmit. The team that sent and read the message correctly the fastest won. The technology resistant among you will be happy to know that Team Morse Code won the race. Maybe that shows that some of the older technology works well, but some of the newer stuff has advantages. Think if someone in Gettysburg had their new *Blackberry Morse* with them and videoed the Gettysburg address and posted it on *UnionTube* for us all to see. Wouldn't that be cool. So, like it or not, we're all being pressured to tech-up and stay with the times.

We've added a few new things we'd like to let you know about. Most patients who

have been to our office in the last two months or so have been given the options for how our office contacts you in the future, or you may have received an email message asking about contact preferences. We know that many of you are getting most of your messages and reminders via email or text message and *prefer* this. We now have the ability to deliver our reminders or messages to you via email or text. Please understand, *you are under no obligation to choose either of these options.* We want you to choose the method that is best and most convenient **for you!** You may still have us call you on the phone if that is the method you prefer. Heck, we can probably get Dr. Wright to learn Morse code if you would prefer to get messages that way! We just want to have your preference noted in your record, so expect our office to bring this up the next time we see you if we have not already.



Hopefully you have visited our website wzdds.com. We would love for this to be your source of all things dental in the virtual world. We have a number of educational pieces on many dental topics as well as copies of our previous newsletters. If you have comments or suggestions about our website, feel free to email me at drz@wzdds.com.

Lastly, many of you are Facebook users. We now have a *Facebook Fan Page* up and running which can be found at facebook.com/wzdds, which will be our main page. (A second page is being started for the Franklin Office only). I plan on keeping the Facebook Page on the lighter side, with a mix of dental stuff and fun stuff, after all, Facebook is supposed to be fun! I have posted some photos from recent office activities as well as baby pictures from Jeanie and Kara. Check us out and don't forget to “LIKE” us on Facebook. — Dr. Z

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cheapened the donation. A couple of colleagues noticed my reluctance and they got after me. They insisted that it is important to talk openly about these gifts so that it might inspire others to give. You know, sort of like the movie “Pay it Forward”.

Through the years Don and I have donated care to people through such organizations as Donated Dental Services, Christina's Smile, through referrals from churches and even from school counselors. As we get older and have a little more time to get involved, we are committed to doing more. I know the quality of the folks that make up our patient family, and I know that each of you is far more generous and involved than most. I want to say thank you to all of you that have inspired the rest of us to “Pay it Forward”. May God bless you and may you have a joyous holiday season!! — Dr. Dave

Picture This continued from pg. 3

people, (including me), also now have mini hard drives that can back up a large number of photos, movies, or simply everything on your computer for very little expense. Western Digital makes some of the best ones, which can be purchased at a retailer like *BestBuy*. *You Tube* is a great free place to store your video as long as it is under 10 minutes in length. Lastly, there are other free online storage sites you can use, such as *Dropbox.com*. A free account there gives you 2GB of free storage. This would be good for those special photos you really want to protect, but perhaps not everything in your collection.

I hope this information helps some of you enjoy digital photography more. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at drz@wzdds.com! — Dr. Z