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## Miss W. & Dr. S.

Miss W. is a 10-year-old girl diagnosed with juvenile arthritis; an inflammation of the joints characterized by swelling and pain. In most cases, juvenile arthritis becomes a lifelong, chronic condition.

Miss W. lives with her single mother and her grandmother. Miss W.'s mother has stage four breast cancer; tumors have spread to her bones, lungs and brain. The family is struggling due to the high medical costs associated with the cancer treatment.

Ms. W.'s teeth were extremely overcrowded, with a severe overbite and the family is unable to pay for any orthodontic care. Ms. W. does qualify for Blue Chip , a state and federally funded health insurance program for children not covered by Medicaid. However, this program does not cover orthodontia. Miss W.'s mother sought help for her daughter through DDS. According to her mother, Miss W. is shy but extremely smart and motivated, "She loves animals and dreams of one day becoming a veterinarian and my wish is for her dental needs to be addressed before I pass away."

Miss W. was treated by Dr. S. of Glen Mills, PA, who believes very much in his work for DDS patients. Dr. S. commented that his experience with DDS could not have better, and that participating was very easy. "Of course, this story tugged at my heart.; she has been a great patient and I feel great about treating her."

Miss W.'s mother stated, "It means the world to me that there are people out there willing to help." She elaborated that her daughter's orthodontic care has improved her self-esteem. "A boost in self-esteem was something she really needed."

Dr. S. explained, "I want her mother to know that Miss W.'s needs have been taken care of. Myself, as well as my staff, were touched by this story."