Dr. Tamara Berg is Changing Women’s Lives through the Smiles for Success Foundation

Photos Attached

YUKON, OK: Dr. Tamara Berg has been donating dental services to women in transition from welfare to work through the Smiles for Success Foundation for more than 12 years. Before receiving dental treatment, a job interview for these women may have meant self-consciousness, embarrassment and pain as they attempted to hide decayed, missing or damaged teeth. The Oklahoma Dental Association (ODA) is proud to recognize Dr. Tamara Berg as a Hero of Dentistry for her volunteer work.

“Dr. Tamara Berg has been a volunteer with Smiles for Success since its inception and has treated dozens of women in need,” said Dr. Jennifer Cornell, Smiles for Success President. “Dr. Berg was the Smiles for Success headquarters for the entire state of Oklahoma when they didn’t have a national office. Her generosity and kindness has always been appreciated by her colleagues.”

Smiles for Success provides the dental community an opportunity to assist women with gaining the confidence needed to seek financial independence. Through the program, dentists are able to donate dental care to women graduates of accredited job-readiness and placement programs, or other community-based agencies, and thus helping those who are helping themselves.

“It is rewarding to give someone a start that might change her future,” said Berg. “We often never know how much we can influence someone by giving them a lift, and dentistry is the way I can provide that lift. I have had many women who would not smile. To see the look on their faces when the treatment is completed is absolutely priceless. The hugs are the best payment.”

Berg graduated from the University of Oklahoma College of Dentistry in 1995 and has been practicing dentistry in Yukon for more than 15 years. She has played many vital roles within the Oklahoma Dental Association, including serving as President from 2010-2011 and continually offering a lending hand in various ODA programs and projects. Through the Oklahoma Dental Association, she has been awarded the Young Dentist of the Year Award in 2000, the Thomas Jefferson Citizenship Award in 2003 and the President’s Leadership Award in 2011.
Photo Captions:

**Photo 1:** Headshot of Dr. Tamara Berg  
**Photo 2:** Headshot of Dr. Tamara Berg  
**Photo 3 Before:** Kathy, A Smiles for Success patient, photo of her smile before treatment from Dr. Berg.  
**Photo 4 After:** Kathy, has had a boost in self-confidence since her treatment from Dr. Berg and Smiles for Success.

*Quote from Kathy:* “I went to my first appointment unsure of what to expect. I was greeted by a warm and friendly staff and Dr. Berg was amazing. Within three weeks, I had a smile to die for! I’m expecting my first grandbaby in a couple of months, and I will have the biggest smile for all to see, and will not be ashamed of it. My confidence and self-esteem is higher now than at any other time in my life, and it’s all because of Smiles for Success. Thank you for caring and giving to people like myself, and a special thanks to Dr. Berg and her awesome staff.”

**The Oklahoma Dental Association**, founded in 1907, has a membership of more than 1,600 dentists. The Association was established to help foster an awareness of the obligations and responsibilities of the dental profession to society, to help advance the art and science of dentistry, and to promote public health and health services in the State of Oklahoma. For more information, visit www.okda.org.

**The Smiles for Success Foundation** was established in 1995 by members of the American Association of Women Dentists (AAWD). In early 1996 the pilot program was launched in New York City and programs in Boston, Denver, and Philadelphia were developed in 1998. Smiles for Success is affiliated with numerous job readiness programs in over 30 states. The dental care offered is meant to be a short-term solution to those who need treatment unavailable to them through government programs or traditional insurance as they move from public assistance to the working world. For more information, visit www.aawd.org.

**Editor’s Note:** For more information, pictures or to schedule an interview with Dr. Tamara Berg, please contact Chelsea Canada, 405.848.8873 or ccanada@okda.org.

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