

## AACD cites Smith for Give Back A Smile efforts

The American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry's Give Back A Smile (GBAS) program is encouraging dentists to perform restorative work on needy patients. Dr. Helaine Smith, a volunteer for the GBAS program, recently restored the smile of a survivor of domestic abuse. Gretchen, a 34-year old mother, had four chipped and broken front teeth and was referred to Dr. Helaine Smith by her social worker. Using materials donated by MicroDental Laboratories, the makers of MAC Veneers, Dr. Smith restored Gretchen's smile in two office visits.

"Through the GBAS program, AACD members like me assist survivors by treating their dental injuries sustained through domestic abuse," Dr. Smith explains. "The program helps women reclaim their smiles, their self-esteem and their lives. And, because more than five million people are affected by domestic violence every year in the U.S. and Canada, there is clearly a need for a program like Give Back A Smile to help survivors rejuvenate their lives through the caring hands of a local dentist. I'm honored to be part of the Give Back a Smile program."

Dr. Smith is a fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry. She graduated from Manhattanville College and received her dental degree from Boston University. She also holds an MBA from

Suffolk University. In May 2006, Dr. Smith's practice was named first runner-up in the prestigious Cosmetic Practice of the Year Award competition, sponsored by Levin Group, Ascend Media, and Philips Oral Healthcare.

Victims of domestic violence who have suffered dental injuries because of abuse from a former intimate partner or spouse can contact GBAS toll-free at: 800.775.GBAS (4227). Survivors must make an appointment with a counselor, domestic violence advocate, social worker or therapist to complete the advocate section of the GBAS application. GBAS conducts the initial review of an application. However, the dentist has the final say as to the eligibility of the applicant. If eligible, the AACD connects the survivor with a local GBAS volunteer who provides treatment at no charge to the recipient.

AACD launched its Give Back A Smile program on May 27, 1999. More than 900 AACD dentists, lab technicians and other dental professionals have volunteered their time and expertise pro bono for the program. Since the program's inception, 464 domestic abuse cases have been completed for a total dollar value of more than \$5.5 million. At present, 364 applicants are being treated throughout the U.S. DT

## ADA outlines strategies for helping seniors

The American Dental Association is taking a leadership role in overseeing the quality of dental care provided to senior citizens. During ADA's annual meeting, its House of Delegates adopted a resolution outlining strategies for addressing the oral healthcare problems that elders face. The House also directed ADA's board of trustees to report to the 2007 House on the status of those initiatives.

The number of U.S. citizens over 65 is projected to double by 2030. Most older Americans face at least one chronic medical condition or have limited access to dental care.

In addition to often lacking financial security, older citizens are more vulnerable to tooth decay, periodontal disease, oral cancer and other health problems, such as complications from taking a range of prescription and over-the-counter medications.

ADA's resolution outlines strategies for advocacy, education, research, the development of new dental benefits for seniors, and the needs that dentists have for providing proper care to the elderly. DT

— John Hoffman

## MetLife posts dental Web site for federal employees

MetLife has established a website for federal employees and annuitants to obtain more information about MetLife's dental benefits options available to them under the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). The website is <http://federaldental.metlife.com>.

The site outlines the MetLife Federal Dental Plan's high and

standard dental benefits options available to federal employees and annuitants during the open enrollment period for FEDVIP that runs from November 13 to December 11, 2006. Federal employees and annuitants can also compare the premium rates for the two MetLife options. DT

— John Hoffman

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