

Georgia Dental Association 150 Faces Campaign



**Dr. Douglas
Kallis**

Jonathan is a bright, shy, middle school student. His school's nurse contacted our office concerned that he needed orthodontic treatment. The nurse had been taking him to any needed medical appointments for his ill mother. He presented with severe maxillary and mandibular crowding with an extreme overjet due to incisor protrusion and we created an orthodontic treatment plan. Jonathan's mom is single and had worked full-time until May 2006 when she suffered five strokes. This left her unable to work and unable to afford any orthodontic care for Jonathan. The sweet staff at Jonathan's school has been working on helping him overcome his shyness and self-esteem issues. They felt like his prominent overbite played a role. We were so happy to start Jonathan's orthodontic treatment in December 2007. The estimated treatment time is 30 months. I have already seen a positive change in his personality.

Kristen is a 13-year-old honor student who was introduced to our office by one of our staff members. She had ectopic eruption of maxillary lateral incisors with impacted maxillary canines and second molars. The orthodontic treatment plan was to create room for the impacted teeth and to obtain their eruption. Her younger brother was diagnosed in utero with a heart defect. He had major heart surgery at birth, but was never able to progress as a healthy child would. Their mother was unable to work as she cared for him full-time and Kristen's parents later divorced. At the age of four, Kristen's brother developed pneumonia and passed away from respiratory failure within a year. A few months later, her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. The mom has since undergone successful treatment with surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. She is currently cancer free and is now employed and making a future for herself and Kristen. We feel privileged to have been able to provide orthodontic treatment to Kristen when it was financially impossible for her mother. The estimated treatment time was 30 months.

