

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jayden Shannon and I am very grateful to have been a part of the Smile Recovery Project. It was an amazing experience from beginning to end. I first heard about this opportunity from my girlfriend who found a post on Facebook made by a mutual friend of ours. The timing of this was perfect for me and where I was in my life.

I fell into the trap of using and abusing drugs and alcohol early on in high school. Unfortunately, this would become my life for the next several years. Very quickly I self-destructed and made a mess of my life. I continued to dig myself deeper into a hole until eventually at the age of 22, I decided to take responsibility for my life and ask for and receive help. I got clean in 2021 and will celebrate 3 years of continuous clean time on March 28<sup>th</sup>. I am very blessed and beyond grateful to have the life I have today.

There were many consequences to my using, however, and one of them was the damage I had caused to my teeth. After I got clean, I went to the dentist for the first time in eight years and began to start the process of getting that damage taken care of. I got through some cavities and a deep clean but after that I was at a stopping point because I could not afford the rest of the work than needed to be done. I had decided I would like to get to it some point, but in the present moment I had some other goals that I wanted to accomplish first. This bothered me because I hated the staining and spots on my front four teeth. I didn't like to smile in pictures and was always very self-conscious in public and would try to hide it. Regardless, I just didn't have the money to take care of it. This is why I say I found out about the Smile Recovery Project at the perfect time! I had reached out and got in touch with Joe Barrett from Dental Designs and was given the opportunity to get the dental work done through this program.

I want to give a special thank you to Austin Barrett for making all this possible. Dr. Jirovec from Crete Dental Center who did an amazing job on my teeth, and Joe and everyone else involved at Dental Designs. These great people were so kind to me throughout this process and made me feel so comfortable. This is truthfully one of the nicest things anyone has ever done for me, and I couldn't be more thankful to have been a part of it. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jayden Shannon