What a feeling it is to wake up every morning as you head off to the office knowing the difference you can make in a patient's life. Not just a physical difference but helping heal the inside as well. How many other professions can say that?

I want to share one of my most memorable experiences with one of our patients. We had a patient who was referred to me from a local organization that helps battered women. As the photos reveal, she had been hit in the mouth, resulting in the fracture of several of her front teeth. In many cases, self-esteem and domestic violence go hand in hand. Women with low self-esteem feel that they cannot do better than the situation they are in, which makes them far less likely to leave an abuser. Abusers are very good at controlling and manipulating their victims leaving them feeling depressed, drained, scared, ashamed and confused.



The bruises and damage done on the outside is not nearly as bad as the damage done on the inside. So with this patient we knew we were not just fixing her smile but also her self-esteem and self-worth.

When this woman first came into our office she was very quiet and embarrassed by her smile and her situation in general. We agreed to restore her smile at no cost. Using Empress Crowns and Veneers, we were able to give her a beautiful, healthy smile. You can see a difference in her smile in the after photo but look into her eyes and you can see the real difference!

Right away you could tell her self-esteem was restored. That scared, fragile, abused woman from the before picture was gone and before us stood a woman filled with confidence. For once she could see herself as beautiful!

She could not stop smiling after we restored her smile; she was tearful and so happy. She hugged us all and kept saying how grateful she was for her new smile and how it will allow her to find a better job and how much better her life would be. Her gratitude brought smiles and tears to our practice as well. The rewards of our profession go way beyond the financial rewards. It is what we do for others that really adds value to our lives. How amazing is it to be able to change someone's life?

Life will give us all kinds of reasons to cry but how amazing is it as LVI Dentists that we can give our patients a reason to smile!

