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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Smile Source helps bring smiles back to domestic violence victims.**

Bruises heal and scars may fade, but teeth can be irreparably damaged in some domestic violence cases, which is why Smile Source has partnered with the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (AACD) to help.

Smile Source was honored to be the title sponsor for the 20th Anniversary Celebration for Give Back A Smile, April 25, 2019. The American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry Charitable Foundation's (AACDCF) Give Back a Smile program heals some of the most devastating effects of domestic and sexual violence, by restoring smiles.

"We're thrilled to be involved," said Trevor Maurer, Smile Source CEO. "Smile Source has 1,000 dentists across the country, and 200 that are involved in the program already, so we have a real opportunity to help."

Maurer sees strong alignment between Smile Source and the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. Smile Source is an organization that's working to preserved private practice dentistry. Dentists who own their own practice enjoy the freedom to choose to practice the type of dentistry the AACD supports and are able to offer up their time and talent to charitable causes about which they are passionate, like Give Back a Smile.

Dr. Gary Radz, Smile Source Director of Industry Relations, shared his experience having treated several patients over the decade that he's been involved with Give Back A Smile.

Through \$16 million in donated dental services, primarily provided by AACD dentist members, Give Back a Smile has helped restore the smiles of more than 1,700 survivors of domestic or sexual abuse, according to the Consumer Guide for Dentistry.

"It's humbling to do this because these patients have so many obstacles, and we're just helping remove one of them," said Radz, an AACD member, who practices in Denver, CO.

He encourages other dentists to help out. "If you haven't done it, get involved because there's no better feeling than being able to help someone feel better about themselves," said Radz. "It makes a huge difference."

A number of dental solutions exist for damaged or missing teeth. Direct bonding can be used for minor cases of cracked or chipped teeth. Porcelain veneers and crowns can be used to fix more substantial damage. But for the replacement of seriously damaged or missing teeth, bridges and implants are sometimes necessary.

The cost of a single dental implant can range from \$3,000 to \$4,500, and full mouth reconstruction with implants can cost upwards of \$60,000, according to the Consumer Guide to Dentistry. Many victims of abuse are unable to afford the cost of treatment. That's why programs like GBAS are essential.

[National Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#) reports that one in three women and one in four men have been victimized by some form of physical violence by an intimate partner. Plus, 75 percent of domestic violence affects the head/face. Approximately, 20 people are physically abused by an intimate partner in the U.S. every minute; which equates to more than 10 million Americans.

To learn more about program eligibility, or to see how you can contribute to the AACDCF cause, [email GBAS](#) or contact them at (800) 773-4227. You can also [follow GBAS on Facebook](#).