

Without a smile what kind of first impression are you giving people? Exactly, that is why smiling is always important to have. This is how my smile came back to me and became my greatest accomplishment. A little backstory about my smile is when I was growing up I had really bad, crowded teeth. It got to the point where I would not smile; if I did smile, my hand would be over my mouth so no one could see my teeth. When my mother took notice of these changes, she started to ask around for an orthodontist that could help me. Luckily, she found one, but the problem started with them finding an extra tooth in the roof of my mouth that had to be removed before we could continue with braces. The surgery happened and it was a hard surgery and a long recovery that took a toll on me. Another year went by, and I was still not in braces. I was still covering my mouth and not smiling. The summer of 2019 we moved to North Carolina, and she got me into an Orthodontist by August 13 to have my consultation. They were going over how this will be a long process and having braces will cut my gums, my teeth will hurt when they move, etc. I didn't care. I could handle the pain just to get the smile I have been wanting for since I was a little girl. They started talking about the money and how they could help us produce a plan to pay for the process. My mom did not care about the money and just wanted me to smile again and not cover it up. After an hour of being in an office talking about the process and money that goes into having braces, they looked at me and asked, "Do you want to get them on today?" I was speechless. All I could think about was this person is going to make the little girl in me so happy and all I could say was, "how fast can you get me in that chair?!" My mom was all for it; she wanted this just as much as I did. We did all the paperwork and they got me into the chair to get my top braces on. They told me I was probably one of their most excited kids to get braces. All I could think is "you have no idea what I have been through to get to this moment so

yes, I am going to be so excited.” Thirty minutes later I had my top braces on, and I got pink colors on them too. My mom and I were checking out and everyone there was so happy for me and congratulating me. When I walked out of that Orthodontist, I looked at my mother and I said, “I just found what I want to be when I grow up. I want to give kids the smile they have been wishing for all their lives and for them to have the same joy and excitement I am having right now.” All my mother could do was smile at me.

Since Covid-19, I was determined to keep thinking about my end goal. I want to become an orthodontist and help kids smile again. So, in preparation for that I took all of my high school’s science classes, got my grades up and raised my GPA up to a 3.6. I did not want to be just an average student that was just getting by; I wanted to be a great student that had good grades and a good GPA so that I could have opportunities and options in the future. “By the way I am wearing the smile you gave me.” Without Zeytoun Orthodontics I would not have the smile I have today.