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## A reason to smile

*Huntington Woods resident wins orthodontic treatment*

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ROCHESTER HILLS—Huntington Woods resident Gail Moses used to cringe when one of her kindergarten students asked what was wrong with her teeth.

As a teacher at Pembroke Elementary in Birmingham, she often held back her smile because of the way it looked.

Always a mother first, Moses forwent her own dental care in favor of her daughters'. Her oldest, Leah, 22, had orthodontic appliances on her teeth for five years. Elizabeth, 13, currently has braces, and her youngest, Corinne, 11, is about to have them put on.

"It's something I've always wanted and I've always talked about (orthodontic procedures)," Moses said. "But I saw how much it was going to cost and I thought it would just have to wait ... mine had to be put on the backburner for a while."

Fortunately for Moses, her daughters understood and entered her in the "Why My Mom Deserves a Smile" Mother's Day essay contest sponsored by the Rochester Hills and Birmingham-based orthodontic practice Tyler | Dumas | Reyes.

They sat down and penned a 400-word essay describing their mother's passion for teaching and her selfless attitude.

Moses recently received her master's degree from Oakland University in early childhood education. She obtained her bachelor's in elementary education from Wayne State University.

"Being a mother, she wants to put her kids first," the essay states. "She is such a nice, beautiful woman, and to see her hold back on flaunting it because of how her teeth look is a real shame.

"If we could, we would get her braces



*Elizabeth, Gail and Corinne Moses sport glowing smiles.*

now, but with Corinne and I having braces, our family just cannot afford it," the girls wrote. "My mom needs to fix her teeth right now. That's why I think giving her free braces for Mother's Day would be one of the nicest things I could do for her as a daughter. It would really mean a lot."

After the doctors with Tyler | Dumas | Reyes read the essay and took a look at the photo of Moses' teeth, they knew she was the one, Dr. Brian Reyes said. They received more than 30 essays submitted from people in cities spanning from Lake Orion to Southfield.

"We often have mothers that would like to do something about their smile but their children always come first," Reyes added. "Elizabeth's essay touched on all of those things, which motivated us to do the contest.

"Her mom is working toward bettering herself, and we thought she was a very deserving candidate."

As the grand-prize winner, Moses will receive cost-free braces and dental treatment, which usually averages between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

When Moses found out about the contest she burst into tears, she said. After reading her daughters' essay, it didn't matter if they won. All that mattered was that she knew how her daughters felt.

"I mean, people say, 'You have a 13-year-old and an 11-year-old? Oh my goodness.' But I read (the essay) and thought, 'All I do is appreciated,'" Moses said. "I didn't care if we won. Just knowing this is how my daughters feel about me is Mother's Day gift enough."

Tyler | Dumas | Reyes have offices located in Rochester Hills and Birmingham. For more information, visit [www.tdrortho.com](http://www.tdrortho.com).

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