

# Straight, white teeth and a better bite in only three weeks!

## Stephen G. Blank, DDS

The first appointment I scheduled with Dr. Blank was to have my teeth whitened for charity," remembers 82-year-old Wisconsin native Clifford Masek.

Stephen G. Blank, DDS, practices cosmetic and functional dentistry in Port St. Lucie. He is a supporter of the Smiles for Life Foundation and participates in their annual children's charities teeth whitening campaign.

"In the process of my initial consultation with Dr. Blank, I was asked the following question: *What would you like to have your dentist do for you?*

"Well, I had always had irregular teeth, which gave me an inferiority complex about them. Because my lower jaw projected beyond my upper teeth, my teeth

never came together. The only ones that fit together were my four molars in the back of my mouth."

"Clifford had what we call a *malocclusion*, which means that his teeth had imperfect contact and malposition," educates Dr. Blank.

"I told Dr. Blank I would like to have my teeth straightened," recalls Clifford.

After reviewing Clifford's dental records and performing an in-depth examination, Dr. Blank made his assessment.

"He told me that by using a combination of braces and jaw surgery, we could get the results I wanted, but that it could take up to three years," says Clifford. "At eighty-two years old, that didn't sound too practical."

"However," continues Dr. Blank, "I went on to explain



**Clifford says that having his teeth straightened was one of the best things he ever did for himself: "I'm just happy and life is great!"**

that, using a different method, we could straighten Clifford's teeth and align them, correcting his bite, and give him a whiter smile, all in three weeks' time."

"I thought, three weeks, *wow*," says Clifford through a laugh. "That was just like hanging a carrot in front of my nose.

"My only hesitation was the expense at my age, but then I thought, *heck, I feel young*. I feel like I'm in my sixties, and I'm working on feeling like I'm in my fifties!"

### Instant orthodontics

According to Dr. Blank, age is not a factor for people who want

a better functioning, more handsome smile. "Clifford's teeth were already healthy," says the doctor, "but even for patients who aren't as fortunate as Clifford, we can still help them create a healthy, beautiful smile."

Dr. Blank used a combination of all-ceramic restorations known as veneers and crowns to reshape Clifford's teeth and improve his bite.

Veneers are thin, semi-translucent *shells* that are permanently bonded to the front of the tooth and help change its shape and color. They are a cosmetic alternative for a variety of dental conditions seen in front

teeth, including gaps between the teeth, broken or chipped teeth, stained fillings, and permanently discolored, misshapen or crooked teeth.

The difference between a veneer and a crown is that a crown covers the entire top of the tooth, while a veneer is bonded to the front of the tooth. Crowns can be used cosmetically to change the shape, position and color of the tooth, and they can be used functionally by helping to retain the integrity of a tooth. They can also improve a patient's bite.

"Other than getting married, this was the best thing I ever did for myself," confides Clifford. "It boosted my self-esteem one thousand percent.

"I'm always smiling now, and my bite is better than ever. I've got a completely positive attitude about everything," FHCN-

Kris Kline

### For that healthy smile...

Dr. Blank and his staff look forward to meeting the readers of Florida Health Care News. For more information, or to schedule an appointment, please call (772) 878-7348. His office is located at 184 N.W. Central Park Plaza, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986.



**Stephen G. Blank, DDS, is a graduate of Northwestern University Dental School in Chicago. He has since completed intensive continuing education studies, and he and his dental team have completed the DOCS (Dental Organization for Conscious Sedation) program. Dr. Blank has taught continuing education courses for dentists, dental assistants and hygienists in conjunction with Indian River Community College's Dental Science department,**

**and is a Facilitator/Mentor with the Dental Boot Kamp program. He is a supporter of the Smiles for Life Foundation. Dr. Blank enjoys teaching dental teams around the country.**