

Zimmerman Dental: Dazzling smiles with a gentle touch

Dr. Diane Zimmerman knew as early as eighth grade that she was destined to be a dentist. "I had braces and I just thought it was the greatest thing," she recalls. "I couldn't believe my smile could look so great."

Now in her 21st year of general dentistry practice, Zimmerman is happy to serve residents of Shoreview and surrounding areas at her own clinic, Zimmerman Dental.

At Zimmerman Dental, they believe that frequent exams and at-home dental care in between appointments are essential to helping patients maintain healthy teeth and gums. They offers a full range of services including preventive care, fillings, crowns, bridges and dentures.

"We give financial advice too," Zimmerman says with a smile. "Floss every day, save money."

Zimmerman Dental's reputation for friendly staff and gentle dentistry has helped the clinic maintain long-term relationships with patients who range in age from three to 99 years old.

"I have the world's best staff," Zimmerman says. "I just feel like you should come see us because I have handpicked all these friendly, caring people to help you."

"Everyone's so happy to be here and it shows through in our work," she continues. "It just makes the whole day go easily."

Brenda, the practice's dental hygienist of five years, says Dr. Zimmerman and the rest of the staff make coming to work each day something to look forward to. It's a feeling that carries over into patient care.

"Diane is a great dentist and an even better boss," she says. "When you love your job and you love coming to work, you're going to do a better job with patients." Zimmerman and her experienced staff do their best to make each patient, young or old, as comfortable as possible. "If all we get done that first time is a 'ride' in our chair, we consider that a successful visit," Zimmerman says.



Patients young and old say Dr. Zimmerman and Lynn, her chairside assistant of seven years, make a great team.



Hygienist Brenda has more than 26 years of dental experience.

Patients benefit from the staff's more than 100 combined years of dental experience. Chairside dental assistant Lynn has worked with Zimmerman for nearly eight years and patients say it shows. "I have patients comment all the time, 'Oh, what a great team you are,'" Zimmerman says. "We have a great relationship and everything goes very smoothly because of that."

Dental hygienists Cyndee and Brenda help educate patients on all aspects of dental health. "I like to build a relationship with patients and help them out the best I can with their dental care," says Brenda, who has been a hygienist for more than 26 years. "You know



All the staff, including hygienist Cyndee, are friendly and helpful.

I like what I do if I've been around that long."

Zimmerman and her staff do their best to make sure each and every patient leaves their office armed with the resources they need to make informed decisions about their dental care. "We tell patients this all the time: 'You can't make a good decision without good information,'" Zimmerman says. "The only place you can get that is from us."

"And we won't nag you to death," she adds. "We encourage people to ask questions. If we don't have the answer we can always find it for them."

Zimmerman especially enjoys



Mary, the office's friendly receptionist of 18 years, is always on hand to make appointments or direct patient questions.

visits with the practice's many senior patients, some who have been coming to the practice since it opened. "They've taken good care of their teeth and it's such a pleasure to help them," she explains. "Seniors tend to have more complex problems and truly my challenge is to find simple solutions for them."

Zimmerman is a member of both the Minnesota and American Dental Associations. She recently spent the day volunteering her time as part of Give Kids a Smile Day at Century College, where she worked on the smiles of kids ages 11 months to 13 years old. "The kids were just fabulous," Zimmerman recalls. "That was a good day to be a dentist."

A mother of two, Zimmerman splits her time between the practice and raising her own children, and sometimes the maternal touch seems to reach her youngest patients. "I've had patients call me Dr. Zimmermom," she says. Appointments are available Mondays through Wednesdays, and Mary, the office's friendly receptionist of 18 years, is always on hand to direct patients' questions or concerns. "I'm delighted to help you," Zimmerman says. "I just really enjoy being a dentist."



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