

HEALTH

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QUARTERLY



THE IMPORTANCE OF A SMILE

Two Bay Area Dentists
Volunteer for Veterans

Dr. Joseph Field and Dr. Bruce Hartley

THE IMPORTANCE OF A SMILE

Each year, the doctors behind a highly acclaimed Silicon Valley dental practice extend their expertise beyond their high-profile clients to help veterans in our community. *Gentry Health* reports.

Doctors Bruce Hartley and Joseph Field spend their days working with patients with everything from a simple cavity to dental implants and full-mouth reconstruction. Clients travel from throughout the Bay Area to their Los Altos-based practice, Peninsula Center of Cosmetic Dentistry (PCCD) because the PCCD team has earned a sterling reputation for creating beautiful, healthy smiles that last a lifetime.

Dr. Hartley grew up in San Diego and graduated *cum laude* from UCLA and later was at the top of his class at USC Dental School. In 1986, he moved with his family to Los Altos and opened his practice. “From the time I was very young,” Dr. Hartley recalls, “I loved working on toy models and the detail work that went into crafting them. I think it may have been a precursor to wanting to go into dentistry. You need to be focused on working with precision and artistry in a very small space.” Dr. Hartley’s undergrad degree at UCLA was in psychology and he appreciates how important the mental side of a poor smile can affect a patient. “How one’s smile looks can make people self-conscious; they can shy away from ever showing their teeth,” he relates. “It’s incredibly gratifying to help restore their confidence—to fix that aspect of themselves that’s been bothering them for years. Giving someone their smile back, whether it’s with porcelain veneers, dental implants, or full mouth reconstruction, is very rewarding.”

When Joseph Field set off for college at Brigham Young Uni-



versity, he was originally focused on mechanical engineering. But during a mission for his church in Colombia, he was introduced to medical professionals working with Operation Smile. “It was a life-changing experience for me and I pursued dentistry from then on,” Dr. Field recalls. Like Dr. Hartley, he headed to USC for Dental School and went on to pursue the highest levels of certification in dental implantology, IV sedation, and esthetic restoration. Dr. Hartley spotted Dr. Field’s talent before the Los Altos native graduated from USC and recruited him to join the practice.

Together, Drs. Hartley and Field and their impressive team pride themselves in utilizing state-of-the-art equipment and technology. “Dentistry has made leaps in recent years,” notes Dr. Hartley. “This really is the digital age in dentistry, from digital impressions to 3D image CAD scans that can be used to repli-



Dr. Bruce Hartley and Dr. Joseph Field

cate full facial structure and create restorative plans. We are constantly investing in the latest and best technology, including a \$100,000 Cerec CAD/CAM machine to build custom crowns for same-day placement.”

Drs. Hartley and Field clearly love what they do, but both are committed to go beyond simply helping their patients. “I worked with a VA hospital right out of dental school,” recalls Dr. Hartley. “So working with our troops has always been important to me. Often our vets don’t have full dental coverage, or if they have coverage, it doesn’t cover cosmetic dentistry.” Since 2013, Dr. Hartley, Dr. Field, and the team at PCCD have donated their time to a special cause called Smiles for Troops—a week-long program that offers free-of-charge dental services, including cleanings, fillings, crowns, and repairs to chipped teeth. The PCCD staff triages the most

pressing cases, schedules X-rays, and performs the work needed.

“We had one soldier who had served tours of duty in both Afghanistan and the Middle East,” recalls Dr. Hartley. “He let us know that he found it very hard to get work because his teeth were rotted. We gave him implants and crowns to restore his smile. The look on his face when he saw his teeth was incredibly moving.”

When these busy dentists aren’t in the office or volunteering, you can find them on a host of athletic fields in the neighborhood with their respective families. “I’m pretty involved with my sons’ football teams,” says Dr. Hartley. “And I’m out there coaching Little League for my boys,” adds Dr. Field. It’s no wonder that these perfectionists have a competitive streak and penchant for athletics. Their patients are the lucky recipients of that drive and energy. ♦