

The Boy with the Broken Braces

The mom had fled an abusive relationship, and came to Huntsville with her pre-teen son. She had been supporting herself and her son with a minimum wage job for a couple of years before an unforeseen expense caused a crisis and she called the St. Vincent de Paul Society for help with a utilities bill. In getting to know the Mom and son, we found out that the braces he had before they came to Huntsville had not been serviced in all that time. They had broken and the broken part was hurting his mouth. They were definitely doing the teeth more harm than good, and were an embarrassment to the now young teen. His mother had checked to see how much it would cost just to get them removed, and the \$1000 estimate she received was totally out of her ability to pay. We found the Huntsville Free Dental Clinic could not provide any braces-related procedures. An orthodontist in our network provided the needed removal at cost. The child was saved from pain and embarrassment and further damage to his teeth which could have caused problems for years to come.