

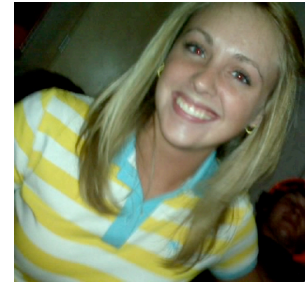
Georgia HOSA: Changing Lives

Jordan Foster, Miller County High School



This is a HOSA success story about a HOSA student who received an enormous gift through the generosity of a local dentist.

When school began last year, it was like any other year, except for the 12 clinical students in my program. They were all excited about getting to participate in the HSTE clinical program their last year of school. They eagerly ordered their scrubs, lab coats, name tags; completed their training agreements, and clinical schedules. They couldn't wait to begin their clinical experience. Jordan Foster was one of those students. She was a very beautiful, popular, smart, cheerleader, who was also active in HOSA. Jordan had one secret. She was a little self conscience of her smile, due to a few non-aligned teeth.



Because of this, Jordan became interested in dental hygiene, and asked if she could shadow one of our local dentists. She had already rotated through two other areas, and didn't show any interest in those areas, so I told her yes. It didn't hurt that the dentist was also her personal dentist. She stayed there the remaining part of the year. At one of the Head Start Advisory boards, of which he and I serve, the dentist told me how impressed he was with Jordan and I of course, was delighted.

As the school year was winding down, and the students were finishing their last week of clinicals, they all had surprises from their preceptors and the hospital CEO. Some were given huge, catered, farewell parties, others were given gifts, and some were given full-time jobs. But of all the gifts that were given that day, the one that changed a student's life forever was from the dentist.

Jordan came running in to my classroom at the end of that last clinical day and grabbed and hugged me; with tears in her eyes she said, "You are not going to believe this, Mrs. Georgia Ann" Dr. X asked me what I wanted for graduation and I told him anything would be fine but that he didn't have to give me anything" but then he replied, "Well, what do you need?" She said that she wished she could have her teeth straightened and his response was, "So, braces it is." With those words, he changed her Jordan Foster's life forever. Her family was also overjoyed by this unexpected gift.



Jordan's parents are divorced, and during these trying economic times, it would have been difficult for them to pay to have Jordan's teeth corrected.

The dentist started the procedure the following week and it was completed within the month. Through this clinical program, Jordan gained many things besides experience. She witnessed first hand, the caring, empathetic generosity of one dentist and the difference that made in her life. Jordan Foster, one day can "Pay it Forward" for someone else.