



Smiles Change Lives
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Changing Lives, One Smile at a Time
Local Orthodontist Creating Healthy Smiles for Area Kids in Need

Charlotte, NC– October 2023: Doctors Samuel Jack Burrow III, Samuel Jack Burrow IV, Britney Welchel & Alex Culp of Burrow Welchel & Culp Orthodontics have partnered with Smiles Change Lives (SCL) to provide pro-bono orthodontic care to children from families unable to afford the full cost of braces in the Charlotte communities and surrounding areas.

"Partnering with Smiles Change Lives is one of our proudest accomplishments, stated Dr. Welchel, "Providing BWC smiles to so many deserving children and giving back to those in need throughout North and South Carolina is life-changing not only for our patients, but also for us as providers."

Smiles Change Lives is an international nonprofit that helps kids get braces who could not otherwise afford them. Orthodontic treatment has long been considered cosmetic by insurance companies, providing little assistance, even for those that are insured. As a result, many children and teens suffer unnecessary discomfort and embarrassment from their misaligned teeth. Smiles Change Lives' mission is to provide these families with the opportunity to provide their children with braces through its network of over 750 volunteer orthodontists, such as Dr. Welchel, in the United States and Canada.

"Partnering with generous providers like those at Burrow Welchel & Culp Orthodontics expands the opportunity to many more children and their families," said Alexis Barclay, VP of Operations at Smiles Change Lives.

SCL was formed in 1997 under its original name, the Virginia Brown Community Orthodontic Partnership. Virginia Brown grew up during the Great Depression, and her parents could only afford to pay for orthodontic treatment for one of their children. Virginia's sister was able to get braces, while Virginia endured years of teasing and self-consciousness until she finally received treatment during high school. Virginia and her son, Tom Brown, established SCL to help children today avoid the physical and emotional difficulties that Virginia herself suffered as a child.

To qualify for the program, a child must be between the ages of 7-18, have good oral hygiene, not be wearing braces currently, have a moderate to severe need for braces, and their family must meet certain financial guidelines.

About Burrow Welchel & Culp Orthodontics:

With a full complement of board-certified doctors, Burrow Welchel & Culp Orthodontics continues their successful growth by maintaining an absolute passion for ensuring the "Patient Always Comes First". Locally and privately owned, this team of professionals go the extra mile to create one-of-a-kind smiles, complete with the best guidance to ensure a lifetime of dental care. Treatments are backed up with a 100% satisfaction guarantee based on a proven history from award-winning doctors. For more information, visit <https://charlotteorthodontists.com/>

About Smiles Change Lives:

Smiles Change Lives promotes and provides access to life-changing orthodontic treatment for children from families unable to afford the full cost of braces. Headquartered in Kansas City, the program has treated more than 20,000 children since 1997. Over the past 26 years, Smiles Change Lives has emerged as the nation's leader in providing access to orthodontic care for qualified and motivated youth. For more information, visit <http://www.smileschangelives.org>

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