

Makeover

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

"And I hit a hole."

For more than a month, while a dentist repaired a partial for her, Byrne attended school with a very noticeable and embarrassing gap in her grin.

"I had to go to school like that," Byrne says. "All busted up and no teeth. And I got picked on."

Even when the partial was available, it never fit correctly.

"It would fall out whenever I would eat," Byrne says.

There was never enough money to get her daughter a new partial plate, says Byrne's mother, Mary Perry.

"That's what she had to wear," Perry says as she looks at her youngest child.

When Raymond heard Byrne's story of hiding her smile behind her hand for more than a decade, his heart was touched.

"The more I got to know Jodie, the more I wanted to work with her," Raymond says.

Trouble with her teeth was not Byrne's only problem.

Byrne's poor eyesight sentenced her to spending all of her youth in large, outdated eyeglasses. Add the fact that her left ear was misshapen at birth, meaning it noticeably stuck out, and it all mixes into a painful, turbulent childhood.

She was called names like "Dumbo" long before she lost her teeth, Byrne says. After the ice-skating accident, her life became even more difficult. Byrne was a constant target of abuse by her peers.

"I didn't like going to school," Byrne says. "And I stopped socializing."

So Byrne dropped out of Arlington High School and moved to South Carolina, hoping for a fresh start at her sister's house.

Byrne returned to Indiana last summer to nurse her mother through back and hip surgery. Her mother saw Raymond's ad in a local newspaper and contacted his office.

"I couldn't afford to have Jodie's teeth done for her," Perry says. "And it made me feel bad that somebody else would have to pay for it. But I'm so excited for her."

When she heard the news that Raymond would repair her smile, "I was on Cloud Nine for a week," Byrne says with a laugh.

But Raymond was listening to all of this young woman's hurts. So he started dialing for donations. Raymond arranged for Byrne's other problems to be solved.

Dr. Mark Hamilton, a southside plastic surgeon, repaired Byrne's left ear. Hamilton also provided rhinoplasty to smooth a bump on Byrne's nose and reshape her nostrils.

Though swelling won't completely disappear for more than another month, "I already feel so much better," Byrne says.

Byrne's eyes were initially examined by Dr. Linda Frechette of Franklin.

On May 18, Dr. Michael J. Pankrantz of Columbus provided laser surgery.

In less than an hour, Byrne's dependence on her ugly glasses was over, although she wore dark protective goggles for three days to give the eyes time to completely heal from the procedure.

Raymond and his team provided more than 20 hours of dental treatment to Byrne's neglected teeth.

By the end of Raymond's treatment, Byrne will receive fillings, crowns, whitening and a natural looking, well-fitting upper bridge.

"The whole office, we get all jazzed about it," Raymond says of the makeover. "We love doing these smile makeovers. It's so cool to see a person come in and know you can totally change their life."

Hamilton



"CIRCLE CITY SWAN"

Makeover winner changes her look through surgery

BEFORE



AFTER



Jodie Byrne never liked her nose, and she always thought one of her ears stuck out too far. Then she won a makeover from Fox 59.

The "Circle City Swan" had her nose reshaped (rhinoplasty) and her left ear moved back closer to her head by Dr. Mark Hamilton. The May 4 surgery was performed at St. Francis Hospital.

"It was very exciting," Byrne, 23, says. "I was nervous, but Dr. Hamilton did a wonderful job calming me down. It was a neat experience."

Byrne says she was at the hospital from about 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on the day of the surgery. Both procedures were performed on the same day. The following day, she went to Hamilton's office for a checkup and to have packing removed from her nostrils. About a week later, her stitches came out and "in three weeks, everything was gone," Byrne says. She also says she had very little pain.

Byrne believes there is still a little bit of swelling, but she cannot see any scars and is happy with the way she looks now. She recommends cosmetic surgery to anyone who wants it and believes she will have it again when she gets older, if she needs it.

"I feel great," Byrne says. "I feel like a new person." — J.B.