

## CENTRAL ILLINOIS + HEALTHCARE PROFILES



# When Artistry Meets Dentistry

For Prairie Dental Group, transforming lives through the art of cosmetic dentistry is a passion and a daily occurrence.



Photo by Terry Farmer Photography

Ask Dr. Tanya DeSanto why she's passionate about dentistry, and the answer is clear: changing lives and improving confidence through restoring smiles. As a ceramist with a welcoming personality, Dr. DeSanto describes cosmetic dentistry as "the arts and crafts of the mouth," adding that the inherent hands-on approach and creativity behind transforming smiles melds perfectly with her passions.

"I love creating," she says. "And, with my work, that's all I do. It's the best job in the world!"

After years of working with and learning from Dr. David Brandis, Dr. DeSanto joined Prairie Dental

Group in 1999 and has since built an all-female practice dedicated to restoring beauty and confidence to patients whose damaged teeth have led to years of smile-less days. Consistently dubbed "Springfield's Best Dentist" by *Illinois Times* year after year, the practice, Dr. DeSanto says, owes its success to the patients, whose appreciation is felt through the beaming smiles once hidden behind raised hands.

"It's important to listen to what people want and provide all of the options today's dentistry has to offer, so you can take them to the finish line," she notes, attesting to the practice's patient-first philosophy. "If you have passion and care about what you do, you can create truly outstanding results."

## Dr. Tanya DeSanto

Photo by Bill Stokes Photography

### For the Smiles

With patients from across the region flocking to the practice for advice and services from its four highly experienced dentists—all members of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry—Prairie Dental Group ensures patients receive the highest quality care to achieve their smile goals, whether families seeking general dentistry services or individuals wanting more.

Thanks to The Wand®, a computer-aided local anesthetic delivery system, the need for traditional, fear-inducing syringes to administer anesthesia is gone, offering more precise numbness and putting patients at ease. Veneers, dental implants, bridgework, crowns, and Philips Zoom whitening are staple services. Using state-of-the-art technology, the practice can complete some work in one visit, such as with crowns that can be designed and milled in-house, eliminating the waiting period between initial work and end result.

For those whose fear of the dentist may have them putting off a smile transformation, Dr. DeSanto encourages, "Create a goal and work toward it. Small changes can make a huge difference."

### A LIFE CHANGED

When the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry contacted Dr. Tanya DeSanto to participate in their Smile Story contest, it was an opportunity the revered dentist could not decline. The contest winner, a woman whose limited access to dental services left her with orthodontic relapse following self-removal of her braces, came to Prairie Dental Group in need of a total transformation—in mind, smile, and spirit.

Dr. DeSanto got to work, restoring decay and creating veneers to craft a dream-come-true smile suited for the patient's bubbly personality. With her confidence renewed, the patient lost weight, found a job, and had more children. Years later, she surprised the practice with a visit, thanking Dr. DeSanto again and sharing how her life is completely changed.

"She looks like a model," Dr. DeSanto shares. "That smile makeover is one of my favorite moments in dentistry."

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