



Gaylina Reachi, DDS

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Most people think homelessness is the worst circumstance for a child. Gaylina Reachi reveals a different perspective. "It was actually a happy time in my childhood," she recalls. "There was no money for alcohol or drugs, so there was no abuse. We lived in a vacant lot on Central; we'd talk in the van at night until I would drift off to sleep."

When asked how she endured, Gaylina smiles. "In fear of sounding like a holy roller, it was the presence and direction of God from an early age, although He has never asked me to do anything easy. I was terrified when He directed me to go to dental school as a 28-year-old mother of three, with a ninth grade education. But resistance is futile. God's will be done. Luckily he doesn't fail, which is why I'm a dentist."

Understandably, Gaylina is passionate about her field. Among other things, she works diligently to educate the public on how to reduce cavities. "Did you know cavities are contagious?" Gaylina asks. "They are caused by bacteria, which is passed from person to person, mother to child. Bacteria eat carbohydrates, and their waste by-product is acidic, which breaks down the enamel causing cavities, which are 100 percent preventable."

Gaylina is also ardently devoted to volunteer work. "My life goal is to volunteer on every continent, but right now my focus is New Mexico." Indeed, she often volunteers at health fairs, schools, and fundraisers. She sits on the Saint Josephs Foundation Board, serves as President of the Albuquerque District Dental Society, is a trustee to the New Mexico Dental Association, and is a member of the Junior League of Albuquerque. The volunteer work is her small way of saying thanks to the presence that guided her success through obstacles most of us could not even imagine.