

- ❖ Chanhassen Dental
- ❖ St. Boniface Knights of Columbus
- ❖ St. Bonifacius Lions Club



## Meet Maddie



**Before**



**After – Beautiful Smile!**

### Maddie's Smile Story

**A very wonderful miracle happened this last Christmas** to a young 17-year-old girl named Maddie; with collaborative help from her teacher Cindy Finke, along with the St. Boniface Knights of Columbus, Council 12029 and St. Bonifacius Lions Club; combined with generous medical help from Dr. Bradley Lembke at Chanhassen Dental in Chanhassen Minnesota.

**Some background:** Maddie attends the Waconia High School in Waconia Minnesota and lives with her mother in the small town of St. Bonifacius, Minnesota. In May of last year, young Maddie lost a front tooth crown exposing the bottom base of her upper front tooth. To further complicate the issue, Maddie also lost her father late last year. Maddie and her mother did not have adequate dental insurance or financial ability to cover the cost of fixing Maddie's broken front tooth with a new crown. Both Maddie and her mother, along with Maddie's teacher Cindy Finke, had been seeking help for months through many agencies and organizations. This is where in the story the St. Boniface Knights of Columbus and St. Bonifacius Lions and a generous dentist, Dr. Lembke came to her aid!

**This incredible saga of help and solution** all started on Monday noon December 19, 2016 due to the foresight, dedication and concern of Cindy Finke, a Coordinator at the Waconia School Learning Center. With no dental insurance to help support Maddie, Cindy Finke attempted for nearly six months to secure financial assistance through other methods in order to repair

Maddie's broken front tooth. Despite her sincere efforts, Cindy had little success in obtaining proper financial aid for Maddie through normal county, state or federal channels.

After months of denials for funding, suggested by a fellow teacher, Cindy turned to the St. Bonifacius Lions club's website for help. There Cindy found an email address to contact Michael Smith, their webmaster. Cindy forwarded Michael a heart-breaking request for help to young Maddie. The email request plea from Cindy Finke included a letter written by Maddie and two photos of Maddie showing her broken front tooth.

Per Maddie's letter, the initial assessment to fix her front tooth with a new crown was an estimate of \$600 from a Minneapolis dentist, a long distance their home. Based on potential cost, and being a member in both organizations, Michael decided that both the Lions and Knights of Columbus should be contacted to go together to help Maddie, sensing that the final bill might possibly elevate to \$1,000 or more. That same Monday, Michael Smith sent out an email to the St. Boniface Knights of Columbus Council 12029 officers and the St. Bonifacius Lions officers explaining the situation and need. The Lions held a special board meeting the next night. In that meeting, the Lions board approved up to \$500 towards Maddie's tooth repair. Approaching the Knights of Columbus officers via phone, Michael received a similar commitment vote of \$500, bringing our two groups' total potential contribution to \$1,000. The next day, Wednesday, Michael called Cindy Finke with the wonderful news – she cried with joy!

**This story only gets better!** After that news, and a great suggestion from his wife Barbara, Michael decided to stop at Chanhassen Dental and talk to Dr. Lembke, their personal dentist; to see if he would be interested in matching the \$600 estimate Maddie noted in her plea letter. As Dr. Lembke was busy with a patient, Michael presented Dr. Lembke's front office staff with a copy of Maddie's letter and photos, along with Cindy Finke's introduction email. A mere 30 minutes later, Michael received a call from Dr. Lembke's office stating that Dr. Lembke read the letter from Maddie, felt moved to help and decided he will donate the front crown to Maddie, only requesting a small fee from the Lions and Knights of Columbus to cover a portion of the lab fees – truly amazing! Michael then quickly called Cindy Finke again with the even more incredible news – she joyfully cried all over again!

Beyond covering Dr. Lemke's lab fees for the new crown, the unanimous decision from both officer boards was to donate money to Maddie for a fun shopping spree to buy some new clothes for Christmas, and additionally donate money for both Maddie and her mother to put towards other needs and food in the form of a gift card to Target and gift card to a local grocery store in Waconia Minnesota. What a great thing both the Knights of Columbus and Lions, a dental office and the Waconia school personnel did – truly a Christmas miracle made by divine guidance!

**Not even Hallmark or Hollywood could have written a better or happier ending than this!** To quote one of our Lion and KC members: "I think this will be one of the Merriest Christmases for all of us, as it is totally impossible for us to not feel good about what has transpired here"

**Direct Link to Maddie's Smile Video:** <https://vimeo.com/215828381>

**Or on Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/WaconiaSchools>



**NAMES LEFT TO RIGHT: Steve Thurk** (Knights of Columbus 12029 Grand Knight), **Michael Smith** (Knights of Columbus Trustee and Council 12029 webmaster), **Suzanne** (Maddie's mother), **Maddie Pixley**, **Cindy Finke** (Maddie's teacher), **Kim Sorensen** (St. Bonifacius Lions President), **Wayne Gregg** (St. Bonifacius Lions)

