



MILLIMETER BY MILLIMETER: Being an orthodontist might seem to require much patience, since teeth don't move into the correct position overnight. But Dr. Jon Hullings says it's a bigger test for patients. "After someone's been in braces a long time, they're pretty eager to get them taken off."

Top
Dentists

Dr. Jon Hullings

Straightening Things Out

This dentist chose his career after observing his college roommate's father at work. "I looked over his shoulder and realized the impact orthodontics could have on someone's attitude and self-esteem."

Jon Hullings was born in Kansas City, Missouri, but is practically a Wichita native. He's lived here since the age of 4, attending Blessed Sacrament grade school and Kapaun Mt. Carmel high school.

His wife, Carrie, helps manage his dental practice. "A lot of good things happen here in the office that are the results of her

good work," he says.

The couple has three sons—Matthew, Daniel and Patrick. In his off-hours, Hullings chases the boys around to athletic events. "We like to take fun family vacations, like hiking in Colorado. I also squeeze in a round of golf when time permits."

Kansas Mission of Mercy inspired this dentist to become more involved with a program called Smiles Change Lives. The organization helps kids who have severe orthodontic problems and otherwise have no access to care. Hullings chairs the orga-

nization's Wichita advisory board. "I believe every orthodontist in Wichita has agreed to participate, and I'm proud of that. It gives kids the self-confidence they wouldn't have otherwise."

His biggest challenge is getting patients to understand how essential their participation is in the success of their treatment. "It's critical," he says. "In very difficult orthodontic cases, when the patient is very engaged in the treatment and follows directions well, you see the most dramatic changes. That's the most fulfilling." —K.B.