

Today we'd like to introduce you to Dr. Kathryn Polyakov.



So, before we jump into specific questions about the business, why don't you give us some details about you and your story.

My childhood experience sitting at the dentist's office was what motivated me become a dentist. In my home town Sankt-Petersburg many young children used to have many dental problems and I was one of them. Although most kids dreaded going to a dentist, somehow, I was always interested to look at the dental equipment and was always curious to watch dentists working. From early age, I knew in my mind I wanted to be a dentist. My family always told me that I had "gifted hands", so the profession of dentistry seemed natural and seems to have found me itself.

We're always bombarded by how great it is to pursue your passion, etc – but we've spoken with enough people to know that it's not always easy. Overall, would you say things have been easy for you?

Being born and raised in Russia and having immigrated, I was forced to delay my professional career a number of years and fulfill all the requirements to practice in US. Furthermore, the dental culture was quite different and required a different mindset to be successful, along with an emphasis on different aspects such as customer service. Despite the challenges, the experience provided me with a mindset of constant learning and perseverance.

So let's switch gears a bit and go into the Star Smile Dental Center story. Tell us more about the business.

Star Smile Dental Center was founded by one of the first cosmetic dentists in Massachusetts.

The standard of care found at Star Smile was always at the top of the profession, and I feel that my artistic bend helps me maintain these standards and allows exceed our patients' expectations. Using contemporary dental equipment and fantastic dental labs, we seek to provide the best quality for our patients. Personally, my contribution to our office was in expanding our services through my surgical skills, with patients having their dental work in one place and much faster than it would be if they needed to go somewhere else for specialty services.

Has luck played a meaningful role in your life and business?

There is often connotation of limitation when we talk about bad luck, and this is how I felt about negative events in earlier years. Years of observation and experience have taught me that good and bad events are just experiences, and both should not be perceived as limiting in any sense. Both can advance us personally and in business if lesson at stake is taken to heart and learned from. Having said that, I should add that I feel grateful for fortunes of good luck in my personal life and professional career.

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