

RESOURCE

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Day of Smiles



Jawaan Sanders, 8, jokes with anesthesiologist Vincent Conte, M.D., before his surgery.

For a year, 8-year-old Jawaan Sanders lived not only with the memory of his mother's abuse, but also the deep long burn scar on his right cheek, caused by a curling iron. But today when the boy looks in the mirror, it's a healing grin he sees on his face.

The scar was surgically removed for free last November by plastic surgeon Jhonny Salomon, M.D., during the Day of Smiles at Baptist Children's Hospital. The hospital and 30 doctors, nurses, technicians and other staff volunteered their services to correct facial deformities for four children and one adult who could not afford the operations.

It was Baptist Children's Hospital's third Day of Smiles. In all, 21 children and young adults have received free surgery since the program began. And it's not just the kids who end up feeling better.

Plastic surgeon Joel Levin, M.D., gets "instant gratification" from being able to make a profound difference in a child's life with one short operation. Plastic surgeons Michael Kelly, M.D., Brad Herman, M.D., and Phillip Craft, M.D., and oral surgeon Joseph McCain, DMD, also participated.