

RANDY FELDMAN

BA, DDS, MS, Orthodontist

Dr. Randy Feldman is an orthodontist who has donated his time and talent to the Tampa Bay community for nearly 30 years. He holds two clinical professorships at the USF School of Medicine, volunteers his skills to help children with severe birth defects, and for 25 years, offered college bound students a chance to win \$1,000 scholarships for writing an essay answering the question, "What a Smile Means to Me." He has received both a Lifetime Achievement Award and recently won the Tampa Bay Lightning Community Hero award.



Why did you become an orthodontist? In school, I was intrigued with making/carving things out of wax. I was very good in dental school...made beautiful crowns, inlays and jewelry!

Then realized after obtaining my DDS I wanted to specialize. I have a lot of artistic talented (leather craft, model building, etc.) and was good with my hands so after an Oral Medicine residency at University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill, I gravitated to orthodontics, which I absolutely love! I will practice until I cannot physically do so!

What drives your philanthropic passion? He who much is given, much is expected. Therefore, by the Grace of God go I.

What has been your most personally rewarding charity? I have been involved in a lot of charity work. Just a few include eight years on Make a Wish Foundation board and three years as president;

Vice President of Voices for Children of Tampa Bay; Guardian Ad Litem volunteer; and currently eight years as Board Chair for More Health, Inc., where I've served 15 years. And they are all wonderful. I love being involved, as I am a true "child advocate," and I feel I make a difference.

However, the most personally rewarding experience is seeing kids with birth defects through Children's Medical Services. Truly professionally satisfying to make such an amazing difference.

We are involved with patients who require Orthognathic or Craniofacial surgery. Our team has been seeing kids "gratis" since 1982 for craniofacial birth defects including cleft lip and palate. I see the kids every third Friday at USF and at All Children's Hospital Johns Hopkins Medicine and have for the last 29 years.

It is becoming a lost art as the treatment times extend at least 18 to 20 years. However, the rewards are tremendous! ●