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# Beaten Wawa worker gets a new smile

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Barbara Zimath, whose teeth were severely damaged in an attack in Port Richmond in August, is receiving charitable dental work from a Fort Washington prosthodontist.

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DAVID GAMBACORTA, *Daily News* Staff Writer [gambacd@phillynews.com](mailto:gambacd@phillynews.com), 215-854-5994

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AFTER the swelling went down and reality started to set in, Barbara Zimath knew she was going to need new teeth.

Question was, how could she ever afford them?

Zimath had been wracked with worry over unenviable problems like this one ever since Aug. 28, when a pair of scumbags robbed her and pummeled her face for sport while she waited in the predawn darkness for the Route 15 bus in Port Richmond.

One front tooth was completely knocked out during the attack. Three others were left loosened and crooked because of a fracture in the bone behind her gumline.

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Repairing that damage, she knew, could cost tens of thousands of dollars.

Zimath, 30, didn't have health insurance. She was unable to return to her job at the Wawa on Richmond Street near Allegheny Avenue, which is where she was headed on the morning those heartless thugs turned her world upside down.

Numerous customers who adored the soft-spoken mother of two donated money to help pay her bills after reading about the assault in the *Daily News*. Wawa, too, provided her with financial support from an employee-funded hardship account.

The donations enabled Zimath and her family to just about make ends meet. Advanced dental surgery seemed like a luxury she couldn't possibly afford.

Enter Glenn Wolfinger, a prosthodontist at Pi Dental Center in Fort Washington.

"I read the story, and it struck home with me. I grew up in Philadelphia, and I go to Wawa every day," Wolfinger said.

The center, which specializes in dental implants and cosmetic surgery, has a charitable foundation that covers the costs of procedures that some people can't afford.

"A lot of times, we're bringing in people from other areas of the country," Wolfinger said. "I thought this time we could make a difference for someone close by."

Last week, the dental center gave Zimath a fixed set of temporary teeth to restore her smile.

Once the bone in her mouth fully heals, Wolfinger said, they'll replace the three damaged teeth - and the missing one - with four custom-designed implants.

Wolfinger said the company is also taking care of pre-existing dental problems that Zimath also had.

The dental center is doing the work for free, and persuaded an implant company to donate the materials for Zimath's new teeth.

"I would say it's probably been well over \$20,000 work so far," he said. "It's horrible, what happened to her, and I'm just glad we're able to help. She seems like a really, really nice woman."

Zimath seemed to struggle with her emotions as she described her gratitude for the new teeth, and for the outpouring of compassion from her neighbors and longtime customers.

"The help from the dentist and from the neighborhood, that



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doesn't happen to everyone," she said. "People get hurt all the time, and they just have to deal with it. I've been very lucky. I'm so grateful for what I have."

Friends and colleagues plan to hold a beef-and-beer benefit for Zimath from 7 to 11 p.m. tomorrow at the Polish American String Band's hall on Westmoreland Street near Salmon.

The two men who attacked her - both of whom were described as in their 20s, with white T-shirts and blue jeans - are still on the loose, as are two accomplices who waited in a green four-door vehicle while Zimath was robbed.

"I don't really go out by myself too much anymore," Zimath said. "When someone walks up behind me, I get nervous. It's still bad, but I hope it will get better with time."

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Why not a full description of the pathological violent hate possessed plague on society filth. Doesn't Ramsey want to catch the scum or is one of the scum connected to one of his friends. How much money did they think this poor woman was holding. Why would they beat her up like they did. Hate. Not for the money she would have given it to them. Young lady if you read this get all the money you can get your hands on and get out of Philly, get as far away from the type of people that robbed you and you'll live happy. There are still places to go, or carry a gun.

— **SlappyHappy**

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0 like this / 0 don't • Posted 6:18 AM, 11/07/2013

It must have been the public demonstrations of outrage and support from Al Sharpton, Jesse Jackson and the other race hustlers that turned public support in her favor. Blessings to Glenn Wolfinger.

— **AngeloDiaz**

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I could go for some chicken noodle soup from wawa

— **Jay Grace ..**

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Nice! Finally something great comes out of a terrible incident. Here's to all the people who helped!

— **LarsMendte2**[Sign in to report abuse](#)

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Nothing more dangerous in the Philadelphia area than walking while white. Another victim assaulted simply because of the color of her skin.

— **ignorantlefty**[Sign in to report abuse](#)

0 like this / 0 don't • Posted 7:07 AM, 11/07/2013

"Enter Glenn Wolfinger, a prosthodontist at Pi Dental Center in Fort Washington."

.....and American hero.

— **teardownthisfishwrap**[Sign in to report abuse](#)

0 like this / 0 don't • Posted 7:08 AM, 11/07/2013

It's not safe to be outside in Philly after dark.

— **QuietThunder**[Sign in to report abuse](#)

0 like this / 0 don't • Posted 7:44 AM, 11/07/2013

Quiet, the position of the sun has no bearing on the pure hatred blacks have for whites. They hate us morning, noon and night!!!

— **835union**[Sign in to report abuse](#)

0 like this / 0 don't • Posted 7:33 AM, 11/07/2013

Good for her and kudos to the doctor. Hope someone else catches these POS cowards before the police do. I'd be more than happy to invite these biotches over to my training facility to go a round or 2 with some people who would return the favor to these scumbags.

— **hvitoloco**[Sign in to report abuse](#)

0 like this / 0 don't • Posted 7:37 AM, 11/07/2013

everything about this rocks. so happy that some sort of solace came out of this.

— **Marcfromphilly**[Sign in to report abuse](#)

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It is things like this that Stop and Frisk help with; the police have the chance to gauge the character of the young men in their district.

Yes, many innocent people are stopped but until the violence stops in that segment of all of our cities, being stopped and frisked may have to be the accepted social cost to the innocents who live there.

Would they prefer to be robbed, beaten, shot, threatened and murdered by the criminals in their district or be stopped and questioned by the police with the intent of protecting everyone in that whole district?

NYC will be the clear proof of the success of Stop and Frisk as this unrealistic new mayor there tosses out the only effective method in 50 years to protect the whole city of innocent people from thugs like those who savagely beat this young woman.

— **GAC**[Sign in to report abuse](#)

0 like this / 0 don't • Posted 8:34 AM, 11/07/2013

Really, GAC? Your solution to this problem is a policy of detaining and searching people who are not suspected of any crime?

I can't agree with you there; I feel that the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures should not be violated.

I suppose that's just my opinion, though.

— **Lefty Grove**[Sign in to report abuse](#)

0 like this / 0 don't • Posted 7:42 AM, 11/07/2013

Good luck to her. I hope she can get out of this area because this type of activity has risen to epidemic levels and it has momentum. There WILL be crimes like this tonight and there WILL be next year and there WILL be in 10 years if conservatives do not totally rout this city. Gangs run the streets, gangs are run by the pigs (another gang) and the pigs are run by the gubment (another gang). Good for this dentist for helping her and again, good luck to her. These crimes should not happen without immediate repercussions, and this city's pigs/ legal system NEVER provide that. Forward!

— **jeffersonian13**[Sign in to report abuse](#)

0 like this / 0 don't • Posted 7:48 AM, 11/07/2013

Not to go off topic, but I thought that Wawa offered medical/dental insurance to their employees.

— **afrdmd**[Sign in to report abuse](#)

0 like this / 0 don't • Posted 7:56 AM, 11/07/2013

It's not society, it's not skin color, it's lack of parental structure. When children are 1 year old they don't know the difference between black and white they are taught to hate by their environment. We as a society need to support each other and over time this behavior can go away

— **missurichie**[Sign in to report abuse](#)

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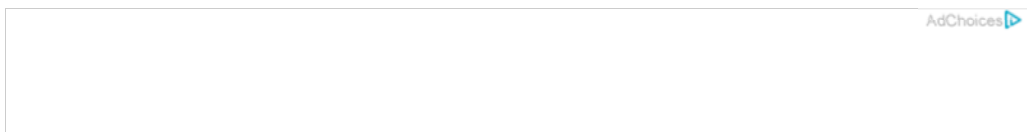
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