



Terry's Story

*"Everyone thinks I'm an a**hole because I don't smile. I think I would come across as a more jovial person if I had the confidence to smile. I want my grandkids to remember Grandpa as a grinning, happy guy."*



Terry's dental story really starts before he was born. His mom and grandma had both lost all of their teeth as exceptionally young adults and dental hygiene was not something that Terry was taught about. Terry and his brother grew up predominantly drinking Mountain Dew because he says their farm's well water was bad. He lost his first tooth by the time he was 18, having only been to the dentist one time when his mom had insurance. When his mom was laid off, visiting the dentist was no longer an option due to cost.

Despite much adversity, Terry worked hard to earn two college degrees, but he says his smile has held him back from interviewing for many of the jobs he is qualified for in business administration. Instead, he works as a laborer. He and his wife prioritized breaking the cycle for their children; both of their daughters were taught about oral hygiene, visited the dentist, and even had braces.

Now it's Terry's turn -- he is deep into his journey toward implant-supported dentures. We're inspired by Terry and his wife, who has been there for Terry, including during his 7-hour implant surgery! The journey to a new smile is so emotional and it's important to have a rock-solid support system -- Terry's wife is certainly that! This journey started because Terry decided to make a huge investment into his health and smile and we're honored to come alongside him and make it financially possible through our Agape Grant Fund and generous donors. We empathize with Terry's struggle over the last 25 years and we're so glad that he's here now. We believe in your bright future and we're certain your grandsons will know the best version of their grandpa. Thank you for sharing your story with us, Terry!