

Dental practice opens near Stillwaters

By ABIGAIL MURPHY
Multimedia Reporter

Even with 33 years of dentistry behind him, you probably won't see Dr. Nilo Hernandez in a white lab coat at his practice.

"I want people to come in and feel like I am one of them," Hernandez said. "Because I am. I came from immigrant parents that were hard working; my mom had three jobs and helped me through dental school. I worked through dental school. I cleaned dishes at a hotel because I needed money to pay for my apartment. I don't come from money, I'm just normal. And I want people to feel this is an extension of their home. This is mom and pop."

Hernandez is the owner of Smilecreator, and while most of his practices have been in Florida, he has been coming to Alabama for the past eight years.

His brother-in-law runs a hospital in Selma whose wife is also an assistant district attorney for Elmore County.



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Dr. Nilo Hernandez, left, opens Smilecreator of Alabama at the shopping center off Highway 49. The dental practice first opened Nov. 2023.

Hernandez originally had a house in Wetumpka, and he would come visit his brother-in-law and ride motorcycles.

Then Hernandez's son got accepted into Auburn University's medical school. So, he sold his house in Wetumpka to buy a place along Lake Martin to help cut down his son's commute.

With the move to Alabama, he sold his practice in Florida

and continued to fly all over the country training dentists and publishing books. However, all the traveling got difficult with flying out of Montgomery, plus the hour drive.

He took it as a sign to set up a practice in the Dadeville area and focus on doing what's right for Dadeville.

"Everything happens for a reason," he said. "God has

always been miraculously on my shoulder creating opportunities."

Smilecreator of Alabama has set up in the shopping complex along Highway 49 with Unit C as his dental practice and Unit D as a training center. The training center allows Hernandez to sell his company's dental equipment and train dentists on how to use it.

One of the things Hernandez is especially working on is aiding those with dental anxiety. Hernandez said his practice is right now the only one in the state that offers a laser treatment to do fillings and minor surgeries with no anesthesia, no needles and no pain.

"I don't need people to be afraid and stay away because that's the problem," he said. "The main reason people don't come to us, it's not because of the cost, but because of the fear. The fear it will hurt or 'I got to go to work,' people swell up for days, they are uncomfortable and the cost. This laser gives us the opportunity to take those

patients and help them in a very comfortable manner."

Smilecreator also offers services such as dental emergencies, general and family dentistry, cosmetic dentistry, dental implants, root canal treatment, dental crowns and bridges, Invisalign clear aligners, oral surgery, full mouth reconstruction, dentures and custom mouth guards.

Hernandez said he knows this practice is also about building relationships and his work goes back to caring about people. When he trains other dentists, he reminds them to just be human. It goes a long way.

Smilecreator of Alabama first opened Nov. 2023 with a possible grand opening to come next month or in March. It is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Saturdays by appointment only.

Individuals can call to make an appointment at 256-373-8333, by emailing info@smilecreator.com or through the website form at www.smilecreator.com.