

Pearly

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he said, "to get an end result that looks so natural."

Browning's new smile is straight out of a Colgate ad. After years of living off ice cream and other soft foods, she can once again eat steak and corn on the cob.

"It seemed like one bad thing after another for me from the time I was born until I was 40," Browning said. "All I'm looking for is a normal life, and I know my life is going to change for the better."

While she says she still has occasional flashbacks, Browning no longer wakes up in fear.

Browning spends most of her time studying for a degree from the University of Phoenix, an online school. She said she has a 3.96 grade-point average - close to perfect - and is on track to graduate with a master's in psychology in 2009.

Her dream is to open a domestic violence shelter and serve as its counselor.

"I want to help other women have the courage to leave a domestic violence situation," Browning said. "That's my life now, and I'm putting everything into it."