THE BATON ROUGE CLINIC AMC

Caring for Generations

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

OF

Caring for Generations

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1946 *to* 2026

THE BATON ROUGE CLINIC AMC

Caring for Generations

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

Since 1946

To our **patients**, thank you for choosing us and allowing us to be part of your lives. We have had the privilege of caring for grandparents, parents, children and, now, grandchildren — watching families grow and being there through both ordinary days and extraordinary moments. Your trust is the greatest responsibility we carry.

To our **physicians**, thank you for the knowledge, compassion and dedication you bring to your work every day. The Baton Rouge Clinic has grown tremendously over eight decades, but the commitment to caring for people has never changed.

To our **employees**, thank you for the countless ways you make a difference — often in moments that no one else sees. From the front desk to the exam room, from answering a phone call to comforting a worried patient, you are the heart of this organization. Our 80-year legacy would not exist without you.

And to **Baton Rouge and the surrounding communities**, thank you for allowing us to grow alongside you. This community has shaped who we are, and we are proud to have been a part of its story for eight decades.

As we celebrate 80 years, we are not simply looking back. We are looking ahead — with the same sense of purpose that brought four physicians together in 1946. Our commitment is to continue earning your trust, caring for your families and serving this community for generations to come.

THANK YOU *for* 80 YEARS OF TRUST.
IT IS AN HONOR TO CARE FOR YOU.



THE BATON ROUGE CLINIC *celebrates* 80 YEARS OF SERVICE, STABILITY AND COMMUNITY

Eighty years ago, there was much skepticism when four local physicians decided to open a multispecialty group practice in Baton Rouge. The concept was new, but Drs. Cheney Joseph, Gerald Joseph, Joe Sabatier and Mortimer Silvey believed that doctors working together could provide improved patient care and better efficiency.

That belief led to the four physicians opening The Baton Rouge Clinic above the Pig and Whistle Restaurant on Plank Road. The Clinic's very first patient was of the four-legged variety – a black Labrador Retriever who had a tumor on his chest. Undeterred, the physicians gave the dog anesthesia and performed a successful operation.

Today, The Baton Rouge Clinic is the largest independent medical group practice in Louisiana, complete with the main clinic on Perkins Road, satellite locations throughout the area, and a vast range of services that cover nearly every medical need. Approximately 1,000 team members make up The Baton Rouge Clinic, about 50 percent of whom have been with the Clinic for at least 10 years.

"The Baton Rouge Clinic is a very unique place. There aren't many medical centers like this in the country anymore," said CEO Ed Silvey, the son of co-founder Dr. Mortimer Silvey. "When I think of our 80th anniversary, I think of stability, commitment to the community and legacy. I'm very thankful to the community because they trust us. I attribute a lot of our longevity to the founding fathers of the Clinic. They developed a culture, and we've never allowed people to change that culture."

Silvey said the core tenets of that culture are what he calls "The Four A's" – accessibility, affability, affordability and ability. That means Clinic patients can always rely on someone being on hand to help them, even after hours or on weekends. And, they can be confident they are being treated by the best of the best, since all Clinic physicians must be board-certified.

"Many of the doctors we hire were in the top 20 percent of their class, and over 50 precent were chief residents, meaning they had more responsibility during their training," Silvey said. "We also look for people who believe in The Four A's. In addition, we want our doctors to be involved in the community. That looks different for different people. It might be helping at their church, working at a local school, volunteering at a nonprofit or teaching at LSU. That's also a part of our culture."

That culture has been a critical piece of The Baton Rouge Clinic's longevity and the trust that its patients have in its services. Frequent surveys show a minimum of 97 percent patient satisfaction, meaning patients will come back to the Clinic for services and/or recommend it to others.

"The average patient has been with their doctor here for eight years, which is a very long time in the medical world," Silvey said. "We're taking care of people in their 90s and also seeing their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Healthcare is very personal. People ask their families and neighbors who their doctor is. It means a lot to us that so many people recommend doctors here at the Clinic."

The high quality of service at The Baton Rouge Clinic has also garnered it multiple national awards. It has been recognized as one of the nation's best performing practices of its kind from the Medical Group Management Association every year since 1997. Million Hearts, a national initiative, has recognized the Clinic for its skill at treating hypertension, while many major insurance companies have honored the Clinic for being a leader in healthcare quality and cost.

One of the most significant achievements was when the Clinic was invited to join the Mayo Clinic Care Network in 2020. It was the first independent multispecialty clinic chosen for the Network. The association means Baton Rouge Clinic patients and physicians have access to the Mayo Clinic's extensive resources and expertise, which can result in improved care.

"Anytime we need a second opinion, we can reach out to Mayo. If a patient comes to us with a unique problem, Mayo has somebody who specializes in it. The relationship has also expanded our own staff's knowledge," Silvey said. "When we have a patient who requests to go to Mayo or we feel it is a good place for them to go, we have an ability to get them seen. It's a huge benefit to have that kind of access."

As The Baton Rouge Clinic looks to the future, Silvey said there could be expansions throughout the area and the state. The Clinic already provides medical services in the Monroe area and has plans to open a pharmacy there in the coming months. A specialty pharmacy is also planned for the main Baton Rouge location. Technology will likely become a bigger part of healthcare as well as telehealth, electronic records and artificial intelligence transform capabilities.

But, what will not change is The Baton Rouge Clinic's dedication to its patients and its core values of clinical excellence, compassion, integrity, fairness and community service.

"I'm very excited about the economic development I see in Baton Rouge and throughout Louisiana. Everything builds off of that," Silvey said. "One of our biggest priorities will always be having the people to meet community needs. Baton Rouge has grown so much and become very sophisticated from a medical standpoint, and we're proud to be a part of caring for the people here."

FAMILY'S DECADES-LONG CONNECTION *to the* BATON ROUGE CLINIC COMES FULL CIRCLE

BY AMANDA MCELFRESH, AMCELFRESH@THEADVOCATE.COM

For Julie Suggs, The Baton Rouge Clinic has been a part of her family's life for decades.

Her father, pediatrician Dr. Ronnie Bombet, practiced at the Clinic for 25 years before retiring in 2022. During that time, Suggs watched proudly as he cared for generations of Baton Rouge children, as well as her own.

"My dad always enjoyed working at the Clinic. He liked working in a large practice, alongside other pediatricians, and with a large patient base," Suggs said. "When he went to the Clinic from private practice, he insisted on bringing many of his employees with him. He looked out for his people when he made the transition. That seemed to fit in well with the Clinic's family-oriented atmosphere. They understood why he wanted to do that."

Suggs said the Clinic was also an ideal fit for her father's combination of high-level medical knowledge and positive bedside manner.

"You have to be able to communicate with your patients and meet them where they are, and my dad was always really good at that," Suggs said. "If something seemed off, he wanted to dig deeper, and that was encouraged."

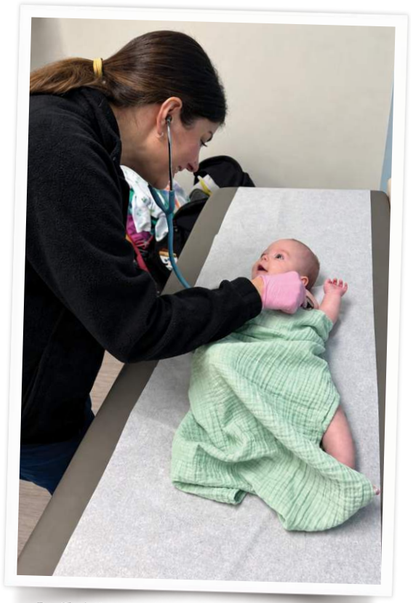
Dr. Bombet's dedication was an inspiration to many. Suggs and her sister both became nurses, although in fields other than pediatrics. But, one former patient, Dr. Christina Holmes, chose to follow in Dr. Bombet's footsteps. Dr. Holmes is now a pediatrician at the Clinic, where she has practiced since 2014.

"My kids see her now, and she practices a lot like my dad did," Suggs said. "She always wanted to be like Dr. Ronnie, and she reminds me a lot of him. He is so proud of her. I see the same persistence and knowledge that my dad had in Dr. Holmes. And, they are both really good at listening to parents and kids."



Dr. Ronnie Bombet and Dr. Christina Holmes. Dr. Holmes, a former patient of Dr. Bombet, credits him with inspiring her decision to pursue a career as a pediatrician.

As a longtime patient of the Clinic, Suggs has seen many changes. She noted that it now features many subspecialties, experts and services, making it convenient for patients of all ages to receive treatment in one place. But, some things have remained the same.



Dr. Christina Holmes performs a wellness check on 10-month-old Charlie, the grandson of former Baton Rouge Clinic pediatrician Dr. Ronnie Bombet.

"It still has that family feel it always has had," she said. "I see a lot of familiar faces every time we go, from doctors to nurses and lab staff. Their communication has always been really strong. I always receive a prompt response. I think you have to treat your staff well to make your patients happy and have a top-notch practice. I think that is what the Clinic does."

CARING FOR GENERATIONS: THE BATON ROUGE CLINIC MARKS 80 YEARS *of* MEDICAL SERVICE

BY STEVIE CAVALIER LICCIARDI, STEVIE.LICCIARDI@THEADVOCATE.COM

On October 23, 1946, Dr. Joseph Sabatier, Dr. Mortimer Silvey, Dr. Cheney Joseph, and Dr. Gerald Joseph founded The Baton Rouge Clinic above the Pig & Whistle restaurant on Plank Road. Working together in a group practice, they established a vision for collaborative care that has endured from the post-World War II era to a post-pandemic world.

Today, The Baton Rouge Clinic brings together 300 providers across a wide range of specialties to care for more than 350,000 patients at 19 locations throughout Louisiana. Its legacy is reflected not only in the generations of Baton Rouge-area families who have turned to the Clinic for medical care, but also in the physicians and employees who have built their practices and careers on its founding vision.

The Baton Rouge Clinic has continued its legacy as a physician-owned and physician-led clinic. The Clinic brings together physicians working in various specialties and provides a supportive framework in which physician-owners can practice.

"The commitment and investment of its physicians are important to the Clinic's success," said Dr. George "Doug" Say, an internal medicine physician at The Baton Rouge Clinic. "As a physician-owner, being a part of the decision-making process always means a lot to me."

Administrative and technology support staff work on site as well, rounding out The Baton Rouge Clinic team. These teams are integral to the unique structure of the Clinic, working in communications, insurance claims, billing and electronic health-record software such as Epic.

"There is a feeling of community here and a willingness for everyone to pitch in when obstacles arise," said Dean Tribou, an Epic analyst who has been with The Baton Rouge Clinic for more than a decade. "There is a culture of supporting one another that has helped to build the clinic into what it is today."

In 2017, The Baton Rouge Clinic received the Better Business Bureau Torch Award, honoring businesses that exhibit high ethical standards toward customers, suppliers, users, shareholders, employees and the community. In 2024, the clinic was also recognized by Zippia as one of the top 10 best companies to work for in Louisiana.

That neighborly, collaborative approach also extends to the patient experience at The Baton Rouge Clinic. According to Dr. Doug Say and his son, Dr. Parker Say, who began practicing as a primary care physician at the clinic in summer 2025, patients may initially see an internal medicine physician, but if they need care from another specialty, the proximity and availability of other disciplines within the clinic is a unique attribute of The Baton Rouge Clinic.

"We are able to care for complex cases while preserving continuity of care because of the numerous specialties that are represented by the Clinic's providers," said Dr. Parker Say. "If a patient comes in to see me and I find I need to refer them to a specialist for a procedure, the process is seamless and can save them the hassle of having to travel to multiple locations."

In addition to numerous specialties and pediatric care, imaging, laboratory, radiology and infusion services are available at the main campus at 7373 Perkins Road in Baton Rouge. The Baton Rouge Clinic has continued to expand its network of locations across Louisiana, including sites in New Roads, Zachary, Opelousas, Prairieville and Monroe.

"The clinic has grown tremendously since I started here in 2008, and I believe we are in a good position to continue providing quality care to residents of Baton Rouge and beyond," said Dr. Doug Say.

The Baton Rouge Clinic marks a significant milestone this October as it celebrates 80 years as a fixture in the medical landscape. As the team reflects on the countless lives that have been touched over the decades, it also looks ahead, prioritizing excellence in care, innovation, and community as the world continues to evolve.

For more information on The Baton Rouge Clinic, visit **batonrougeclinic.com**.



Dr. George 'Doug' Say, Internal Medicine physician at The Baton Rouge Clinic.



Dr. Parker Say, Internal Medicine physician and son of Dr. George Say, also practices at The Baton Rouge Clinic.

80 YEARS in the MAKING

1946 to 2026



1946 — October 23rd - Dr. Joseph Sabatier, Dr. Mortimer Silvey, Dr. Cheney Joseph, and Dr. Gerald Joseph founded The Baton Rouge Clinic above the Pig & Whistle Restaurant on Plank Road.

1948 — The Clinic moves to a larger location at 204 Madison Avenue.



1950 — With more patients and doctors, The Baton Rouge Clinic moves to a more central location at 134 N. 19th Street.



1951 — George Brown is named The Clinic's first administrator; one of two the Clinic has had in its 80-year history.

1952-1975 — The Clinic grows to over 20 doctors with specialties covering the entire spectrum of medicine.

1975 — The Baton Rouge Clinic moves to 8415 Goodwood Boulevard.



1988 — Edgar Silvey becomes the second administrator of The Baton Rouge Clinic, a position he still holds today.



1990 — An additional 16,000 square feet was added to the Goodwood location to accommodate The Clinic's ever-growing patient base.

1991 — The Clinic merges with Internal Medicine Associates and creates a satellite office at 5304 Flanders Drive.

1994 — In September, the Flanders Doctor satellite office moves to 8595 Picardy Drive.

1996
- The Baton Rouge Clinic celebrates 50 years and 60 doctors!
- In September, The Clinic merges with The Pediatric Group, creating a second satellite office at 8304 O'Hara Court.

1997 — The Baton Rouge Clinic is chosen one of the "16 Better Preforming Medical Practices" in the country by the Medical Group Management Association (MGMA). The Clinic is still considered a Better performing Medical Practice by MGMA today.

Medical Group Management Association MGMA

1998 — The Clinic Merges with Hill & Tribou Pediatric Group on Picardy, creating a fourth satellite office.

1999
- The Baton Rouge Clinic moves into its current building on seven acres at 7373 Perkins Road, occupying the first two floors.
- Dr. Richard Lieux opened Louisiana's first accredited echocardiogram lab at The Baton Rouge Clinic. The lab has maintained its national accreditation, with reviews every three years.



2000 — The Baton Rouge Clinic is recognized as the "Benchmark for the State" in ambulatory care by the Louisiana Healthcare Review, a quality improvement organization that monitors care to Medicare patients. This honor was bestowed on The Clinic for surpassing state and national immunization averages for influenza and pneumonia and for the number of mammograms and diabetes screenings for the elderly.

2001
- In June, the third and fourth floors of the Perkins Road office are completed and all satellite offices moved to the current Perkins Road location.
- Edgar Silvey is named National administrator of the Year by The American College of Medical Practice Executives.



2003 — MRI Technology installed.



2006 — The Baton Rouge Clinic celebrates 60 years!

2008 — The Baton Rouge Clinic opens Pediatrics at Perkins.



2011 — The Baton Rouge Clinic opened an Urgent Care Center at 7479 Perkins Road.



2012 — The Baton Rouge Clinic goes live on EPIC electronic medical record.

2014 — Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana presented The Baton Rouge Clinic with a Highest Overall Performance award in their Quality Blue Primary Care program.

2015
- In the 4th quarter of 2015, The Baton Rouge Clinic achieved a Perfect score on the Humana Quality metrics. These metrics are established at a national level and achieving a perfect score is extremely rare.
- The Baton Rouge Clinic opens New Roads and Zachary Offices.

2016
- Pediatrics at Industriplex joins The Baton Rouge Clinic.
- The Baton Rouge Clinic receives the Better Business Bureau Torch Award, honoring businesses which exhibit the highest ethical standards of behavior toward customers, suppliers, users, shareholders, employees and the community.

2016 — The Baton Rouge Clinic celebrates 70 years!

CELEBRATING 70 YEARS THE BATON ROUGE CLINIC AMC Caring for Generations

2017 — Mid-City Office and Hospital Medicine Group (HMG) join The Baton Rouge Clinic.

2019 — The Baton Rouge Clinic celebrates 75 years!

YEARS

2020
- World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic.
- The Baton Rouge Clinic joins the Mayo Clinic Care Network, working with Mayo Clinic to share medical knowledge and clinical expertise.

MAYO CLINIC Care Network Member

2021 — The Family Clinic of Opelousas joins The Baton Rouge Clinic.

2023
- The Baton Rouge Clinic in Prairieville opens.
- The Baton Rouge Clinic is recognized as a top 10 best company in Louisiana to work for according to Zippia—a website that connects job seekers to the best companies to work for in their state.
- Affinity Health Group in Monroe, LA joins The Baton Rouge Clinic.
- Urgent Care Center relocates to 7473 Perkins Road.

2024
- Psychiatry at Mid-City relocates to 7473 Perkins Road.
- The Baton Rouge Clinic Eye Care opens at 7479 Perkins Road, now offering in-house optical services in addition to expert ophthalmologic and optometric care.
- Louisiana Urology joins The Baton Rouge Clinic.

2025

2026

The Baton Rouge Clinic celebrates 80 years of caring for generations. Today, The Clinic has over 300 providers, nearly 1,000 employees, 60 sites of service across the state of Louisiana, and currently cares for over 350,000 patients.

THE BATON ROUGE CLINIC AMC Caring for Generations CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

WHAT OUR PATIENTS
HAVE TO SAY

LONGEVITY

I have been with the BRC since its inception. Over those years, I & many members of my family have had the privilege of not only receiving outstanding medical care but also forming lifelong friendships. The Clinic is not only home to an amazing group of committed, caring physicians but also a great support staff as well. At 86 years of age, I am thankful that our community is blessed with such a great group.

–SUZANNE DANNA-H

(Albergamo) Excellent physician. Listens to the patient intently when determining a diagnosis. Never abrupt like some doctors. I have been to many doctors, and I would rate him as one of the best. I have been treated by Baton Rouge Clinic physicians since 1946.

–DONALD LANDRY

I have been a patient at the BR Clinic since I was 18 years old. I'm now 75 years old and have the best doctors you have to offer. As I was saying, I have had hundreds of appointments over the years and still do. I have always been treated with respect and kindness. Thank you for being there.

–MICHAEL VAUGHN

SPECIALTIES

Dr. Hodges treats me with the utmost respect and honesty. He's the best to talk to about anything, and since I've worked with doctors for over 30 years, I can tell you I would take his advice for my care over any doctor I've ever seen! He is down to earth, and that's what makes him a great doctor. You have to listen to your patient; he does that, and he has the knowledge and experience to know what that patient is telling him, which gives him the correct diagnosis. I respect that and will do just about anything he asks of me. God bless him for being so patient!

–GWEN FERACHI

I love Dr. Gary Fields as my endocrinologist. I've been a type 1 diabetic for 49 years as of April 7th. I lived in Indiana and never could find a knowledgeable endocrinologist until I moved to the Baton Rouge area. He truly cares about his patients and calls me personally or messages me personally on MyChart. Since I started seeing him about 10 years ago, my A1C has been good. I'd be lost if he ever retired.

–JEANIE COOK

As someone with multiple health issues... seeing different specialists ALL under 1 roof is AMAZING!!! I'll gladly travel from Lafayette to Baton Rouge to get 5-star care and wait times less than 10 minutes! Doctors have compassion and a sympathetic bedside manner.

–SARAH S.

PEDIATRICS

(Dawn Vick) We have been with this doctor since my sons were just kids, and it's hard to put into words how much that truly means to me being a single parent. From their very first visits all the way into adulthood, this doctor has been a constant source of care, compassion, and guidance. She has always gone above and beyond—not just treating illnesses, but truly caring about my sons as individuals. She took the time to listen, to reassure, and to support them through every stage of their lives. That kind of dedication is rare, and it never went unnoticed. Now that my sons are grown, it's honestly difficult for them to think about moving on to someone new. That speaks volumes about the trust and bond that has been built over the years. We are so grateful for everything this doctor has done for my family. Thank you for your years of kindness, patience, and unwavering commitment. You've made a lasting impact on our lives that we will never forget.

–PRECIOUS

IMPACTFUL

The doctors at the Baton Rouge Clinic inspire enormous patient confidence. I have full trust in my entire team. But perhaps the service I love the most is the family environment and the willingness of the doctors on my care team to see me when I or they feel I need them.

–TONI D.

HOW THE CLINIC HAS GROWN
FROM FOUR DOCTORS *to a* STATEWIDE NETWORK

THE BATON ROUGE CLINIC AMC — Caring for Generations — CELEBRATING 80 YEARS

Baton Rouge has changed a lot over the last 80 years. So have we.

The Baton Rouge Clinic started with 4 founding physicians. Today, we've grown to more than 300 providers across 16 locations and more than 60 sites of service — not for growth's sake, but because we believe healthcare should meet people where they are. As Baton Rouge grew, so did we: expanding into new specialties, adding services, and building the kind of continuity of care that means you don't have to leave home to get world-class treatment.

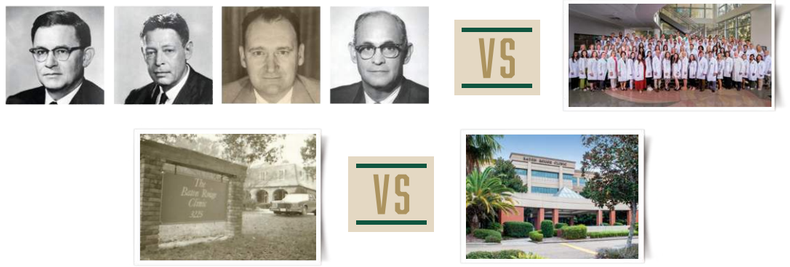
We've listened to our patients and our clinicians every step of the way, and that's shaped every decision — where we've grown, what we've added, and how we care for the people who trust us.

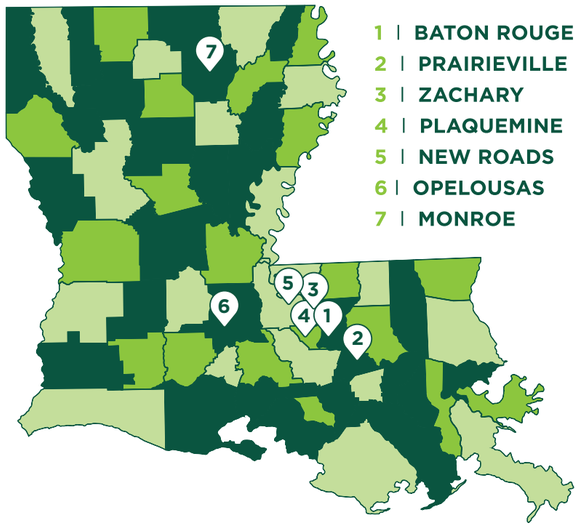
Because our role isn't just to provide care. It's to make sure that care is accessible, effective, and meaningful for the people who depend on us.

Eighty years in, our commitment hasn't changed: to keep listening, keep adapting, and keep finding new ways to care for the community that has trusted us for generations – one patient at a time.

The Baton Rouge Clinic. Growing with Baton Rouge for 80 years.

VERSES





NEW TECHNOLOGY, TECHNIQUES AND ONGOING EDUCATION HELP THE BATON ROUGE CLINIC MEET EVOLVING PATIENT NEEDS

At The Baton Rouge Clinic, numerous physicians have surpassed the expectation to perform the highest quality of medicine and maintain board certifications. In fact, many have helped advance medical care in the region by being the first to offer new technologies and procedures to patients.

Helping patients was also the main goal when Dr. Richard Lieux opened Louisiana's first accredited echocardiogram lab at the Clinic in 1999. The lab has maintained its national accreditation since then, with reviews every three years.

"The accreditation was not required when the lab first opened, but we did it to prove the quality of what we were doing," Dr. Lieux said. "We feel like it is important to show people that the high quality is there and that we are adhering to national standards."

Dr. Lieux said that before the lab was established, a patient who came to the Clinic with chest pain was usually sent to an emergency room. Once the lab opened, it meant patients could undergo tests on the Clinic's second floor to determine whether there is a cardiac problem.

"We are able to see right away what needs to be done," Dr. Lieux said. "That saves time and money and also gives patients peace of mind."

CEO Ed Silvey said the Clinic's leadership has always been intentional about adding clinical care options, especially as Baton Rouge's overall medical landscape has advanced.

"We've always had the philosophy that we would only add a new service if we thought the existing service in the community did not meet our standards," Silvey said. "We have good relationships with the hospitals and other medical providers here, so if we felt like our patients were getting good care in the city, it was okay. Their care is the always the main priority. But, when we see a need or a gap in service, that's where we like to try to step in."

Baton Rouge Clinic physicians are also expected to pursue ongoing education in healthcare and their specialties. Dr. Everett J. Bonner, Jr. has taken that mission to heart by becoming the first fellowship-trained breast surgeon in the Baton Rouge region and by undergoing training to become the first breast surgeon in the area to perform hidden scar breast surgery and nipple sparing mastectomies. Dr. Bonner, an avid learner, said one of the main reasons he has pursued such new techniques is so that patients can experience those benefits without having to travel to other cities or states.

"Here in Baton Rouge, we have the same expertise, the same technology, and the same evidence-based medicine that you will find at major cancer centers," Dr. Bonner said. "The patients also get to stay in their hometown and receive the support of their family, church, work and others in their network. It allows them to stay in their comfort zone while still receiving the best treatment."

Dr. Bonner said he does a thorough vetting and review of all new breast surgery techniques before presenting them to patients. With that confidence and detailed explanations, Dr. Bonner said most of his patients are open to the idea of using a new technique to treat their breast cancer.

"A lot of companies have good literature and videos to show how something was done before and the new way of doing it," he said. "I've got several handheld devices I use to show the process and the benefits. As long as you present it clearly and justify why it is a good option for them, people are usually receptive to it."

Silvey said the Baton Rouge Clinic's inclusion in the Mayo Clinic Care Network – a relationship that began in 2020 – has helped its physicians expand their knowledge even more. Baton Rouge Clinic physicians regularly consult Mayo experts, particularly when faced with unusual or complex cases. In addition, Mayo physicians have visited the Baton Rouge Clinic several times to discuss new technologies, medical tests and treatment options.

"Technology changes are continuing and will continue. Everything from radiology to pharmaceuticals has had to adapt," Silvey said. "We have committees that look at how technology is impacting specific areas and stay abreast of what we need to update or modify here. That's what you have to do to continue providing the best possible care."

In addition to bringing innovative medical techniques to Baton Rouge, many people at the Clinic have broken barriers and become key healthcare leaders in the region. For example, Dr. Elizabeth Seiter, a pediatrician, served on the Medical Executive Committee at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center and became its first female chief of staff in 2012.

Dr. Seiter said the achievement wouldn't have been possible without the support of her colleagues and her experience on the Medical Executive Committee. Today, she is still using the lessons she learned to help her Baton Rouge Clinic patients and fellow staff.

"Being on the committee and becoming chief of staff allowed me to work with physicians from all specialties," she noted. "I learned a lot about hospital governance and administration. It was an entirely different challenge because it was very different from working directly with patients every day. It was a fun experience and I think it made other women in hospital administration proud."

Dr. Seiter said she is encouraged to see The Baton Rouge Clinic continue its support of female physicians. She noted that when she first joined the Clinic several years ago, she knew of about 10 other female physicians. Today, she estimated that number is at least 40.

"One thing I've noticed is that more women are going into different specialties like surgery, psychiatry and other fields," she said. "In many medical schools across the country, over 50 percent of the new students are female. That is really great. I remember my former pediatrician once told my mom that women shouldn't go into medicine. Now, here I am, and I've spent over 30 years practicing medicine in my hometown."

The Baton Rouge Clinic is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. **For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 225-769-4044 or visit www.batonrougeclinic.com.**



COMMITTED TO BATON ROUGE: 80 YEARS OF GIVING BACK

Ed Silvey has seen Baton Rouge change dramatically over his lifetime. Silvey, the CEO of The Baton Rouge Clinic, vividly remembers duck hunting as a kid on the land that is now his residential neighborhood. The Clinic's current location at 7373 Perkins Road was once home to a firecracker stand.

"I'd ride my bike down a gravel road to the stand, buy a few firecrackers and hide them from my parents," Silvey said with a laugh.

Yet, one thing that hasn't changed since Silvey's father, Dr. Mortimer Silvey, and three other physicians co-founded The Baton Rouge Clinic in 1946 is a dedication to the wellness of the community. In addition to providing high-quality medical care at Clinic locations across the region, staff and physicians have become deeply involved in outreach initiatives.

For example, the Clinic has been a longtime sponsor of the Colon Cancer Coalition, The Emerge Center, Quota International of Baton Rouge Charitable Trust, Alzheimer's Services, Knock Knock Children's Museum, Parkinson's Foundation, American Heart Association, Bengal Belles, Farmer's Market, Dreams Come True, Pat's Coats for Kids and many others. As part of these sponsorships, Clinic staff have participated in events, walks and other activities, and have supported fundraising efforts such as galas and benefits.

"I think sometimes people are somewhat surprised and excited to see how involved we are," said Dr. Michael Rolfsen, who has worked at The Baton Rouge Clinic since 1987 and is heavily involved in many outreach efforts. "It has been unusual in the past for people in the medical field to cross over outside the office and do things like this, so when we do it, it's very welcome and exciting."

Michael Acaldo, President and CEO of St. Vincent de Paul Baton Rouge, has seen the impact of that outreach firsthand. Acaldo said Baton Rouge Clinic physicians and staff have been instrumental in programs like St. Vincent de Paul's community pharmacy, clothing drives, fundraising efforts and more. It also isn't uncommon for Acaldo to reach out to Silvey for guidance about how to help the community.

"These are people who are extraordinarily giving of their time and talent," Acaldo said. "They really do care for the entire community and I think they have a remarkable tradition of providing health care not only to patients, but in a broader sense to the community at large through the various work they do and projects they support."

Silvey said the Clinic is intentional during the recruiting and interviewing processes about making sure anyone who joins its team understands that community involvement is expected. Many physicians are involved with local organizations that are related to their specialty. Others play a key role in area schools, churches, universities and other entities.

"That's part of our culture and something we definitely talk to them about," Silvey said. "The people that we hire understand and embrace that. Part of the reason is that most of our subspecialists have ties to Baton Rouge. They have family here, or they went to LSU and now they want to come back. They feel that Baton Rouge has given a lot to them, so they are more than willing to give back."

Dr. Rolfsen said he and others have developed a particular passion for working with organizations that are addressing social determinants of health, such as poverty, education and food insecurity. He noted that the Clinic has been at the forefront of collecting donations for local food banks, providing medications through the St. Vincent de Paul pharmacy and collecting warm clothing for children during the winter.

In addition, Dr. Rolfsen and others from the Clinic work closely with the Baton Rouge Area Chamber to address poverty issues.

"I think it's important that all health care providers realize that social determinants are becoming more important," Dr. Rolfsen said. "Those things were not stressed when I went through medical training, but nowadays, they are being recognized as even more important than office visits."

On the education front, Dr. Rolfsen and others have worked with the Baton Rouge Youth Coalition on a health scholars' program as part of an effort to recruit more minority students into medical professions. Many BRC staff, including physicians, nurses, technicians, and others, have met with students to discuss their jobs and how youth can position themselves to enter those fields.

"I think it's exciting and important that they learn about health care outside of the office," Dr. Rolfsen said.

As a pediatrician, Dr. Mindy Calandro is drawn to community work that is centered on youth, children and families. Dr. Calandro said she has been excited about participating in Dreams Come True projects for children with chronic health issues and awareness campaigns about the dangers of keeping children in hot vehicles.

"This is our community and we want to take care of it," Dr. Calandro said. "I want to make sure our kids are growing, they're healthy and they are reaching their potential. All of this work in the community helps improve the overall health of our patients."

Dr. Calandro said she's already looking forward to upcoming efforts such promoting flu vaccines in the fall and collecting Toys for Tots.

"We're always thrilled to participate because this is our home, too," Dr. Calandro said. "We've been here in Baton Rouge through thick and thin and we want to continue to support our community."

Besides sponsorships and active hands-on involvement, the Clinic has also provided support via donations to multiple groups, including the Arthritis Foundation, Grief Recovery Center, Baton Rouge Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation, ALS Association, Bella Bowman Foundation, Family Road of Greater Baton Rouge, Friends of False River and others.

Acaldo said the willingness of Baton Rouge Clinic staff to raise awareness and funds for its community pharmacy has contributed to thousands of local residents receiving the life-saving medications they need. The pharmacy provides free prescription medicine to people without insurance or who do not have the financial resources to purchase it.

"They have literally saved lives of patients who would otherwise go without heart medicine, high blood pressure medicine, diabetes medicine and many others," Acaldo said. "It's been an amazing community impact that they have made. Our community is very fortunate to have a health care organization that cares so much and has helped us make a difference. The support they have provided is extraordinary."

The outreach is also meaningful for the Clinic's physicians and staff, Dr. Calandro noted.

"I think it's rewarding for them to step outside the walls and see how far-reaching our impact can be," she said. "You realize what impact you can have across the community. It means a lot when you can do something like help provide prescriptions for patients to keep them out of the hospital or educate families about healthy living. I think it's great to get into the community and experience that."

Dr. Rolfsen agreed and said he's been especially impressed with the willingness of Clinic staff to step up in ways big and small. Aside from participating in large community events, Dr. Rolfsen noted that it isn't unusual to find people from the Clinic coaching youth sports teams or working with local Scout troops each weekend.

"We've actually had patients who come to the Clinic because they met us outside the Clinic at something we're involved in," he said. "They see us out there doing good things and see us as a good community partner. It really makes me excited about working here."

The Baton Rouge Clinic is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year. For more information, visit www.batonrougeclinic.com.

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