

The History of Thompson Family Clinic

The history of Thompson Family Clinic is more than the history of a medical practice. It is the story of a family, a community, and generations of people who believed that caring for patients meant caring for neighbors.

The story began with my father, **Dr. William C. “Bud” Thompson**.

Dad graduated from Indiana University in 1939 with a degree in business, but World War II dramatically changed the course of his life. He entered the United States Army in 1943 and served as a medic. By the spring of 1944, he was in England preparing for the Allied invasion of Europe.

Following D-Day, his service took him to France, where he worked in field hospitals caring for the wounded as Allied forces advanced across Europe. His wartime service eventually took him through Germany and into Poland. He remained in the Army until his discharge in March 1946.

Those experiences profoundly affected the direction of his life. Caring for wounded soldiers during the war helped inspire him to pursue medicine after returning home.

He eventually became a family physician and practiced medicine in an era when being a doctor meant being available wherever and whenever you were needed. House calls were a routine part of practice, often taking him far into the countryside and late into the night. He knew his patients and their families, and they knew him not simply as their doctor, but as a trusted member of the community.

My father’s life and medical career ended far too soon. He died at the age of 48 after returning home from a late-night rural house call. I was only nine years old.

His death left an enormous void for our family and for his patients. My mother, **Helen Thompson**, suddenly found herself facing a very different future. Her response to adversity was characteristic of the way she lived her life: “*Life goes on.*” She moved forward, held our family together, and, in ways I probably did not fully appreciate at the time, helped plant the seed that eventually led me to medicine.

There is another person without whom the story of Thompson Family Clinic could not be told: **Dr. Jerry Like**.

Jerry was my first cousin, but I always thought of him much more as an older brother. His mother, **Betty Like**, died unexpectedly from complications of childbirth. My mother’s family helped raise Jerry and his siblings. My parents raised Jerry and his brother Butch as part of our family.

Jerry was **18 years older than I was**. He went on to college and medical school and, after completing his training, established his own medical practice in a community approximately 30 miles away.

After my father’s death, Jerry did something for our family that we never forgot.

While maintaining his own practice, he returned every **Thursday and Saturday** to care for my father’s patients and help keep the office open. He did this for years, in the hope that someday I might choose medicine and return to continue the practice.

Eventually, I did.

I graduated from Indiana University in 1976 and from Midwestern University's osteopathic medical school in 1980. I completed a two-year family practice residency program in Chicago.

Once I returned, Jerry went back to concentrating on his own practice. He continued caring for patients for a remarkable **54 years**. His medical career ended only when pancreatic cancer took his life at the age of 84.

Jerry's contribution to Thompson Family Clinic cannot be measured simply by the number of days he worked or the patients he treated. He provided a bridge between my father's practice and mine. He kept the doors open when there was no guarantee that another generation would ever walk through them.

I remained profoundly grateful to Jerry for the rest of his life.

When I returned to practice, Thompson Family Clinic began another chapter. Medicine had changed considerably from my father's era, and it would continue to change throughout my career. But the fundamental responsibility remained the same: know your patients, listen to them, care for them, and be there when they need you.

I have also been fortunate to share this journey with my wife, **Teri**. She graduated from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. After graduation, she began her career in marketing, working in Miami, Detroit, and Chicago. I was the fortunate one—we married, and she helped manage and grow our business.

Thompson Family Clinic became as much her life's work as mine. She was not simply my partner in life; she was my partner in building and sustaining the practice. Through the years, she helped carry the responsibilities, challenges, decisions, and sacrifices that came with serving our patients and our community. The practice that exists today was built not by one physician, but through our shared commitment, the dedication of employees who became like family, and the trust of generations of patients.

Teri and I were also blessed with two sons, **Will and Chad**, each of whom has built a life and career of his own.

Will chose medicine and ultimately joined Thompson Family Clinic, extending the family's medical tradition into another generation. Will graduated from Indiana University in 2013 then graduated from West Virginia Osteopathic medical school in 2018. He completed a 3 year Family Medicine Residency ending in 2021. As Will has grown in the practice, he has continued TFC's longstanding commitment to comprehensive patient care while also bringing new capabilities to the office. These include colonoscopy and EGD procedures, along with more advanced dermatologic procedures. His work represents another step in the evolution of Thompson Family Clinic—adding new technology and procedure-based services while preserving the personal, continuing care of patients that has always been at the center of the practice.

Chad chose a different professional path. He pursued a career in finance, beginning in investment banking at Barclays, and today he works at a hedge fund in New York City. His path may have taken him outside medicine, but he is no less an important part of our family and its story. Teri and I are enormously proud of both of our sons and the lives and careers they have built.

Looking back, it is striking how much of the history of Thompson Family Clinic depended upon people doing what needed to be done at exactly the right time.

My father established a tradition of caring for his community.

My mother found the strength to carry our family forward after losing him.

Jerry Like kept the practice alive when its future was uncertain.

Teri and I spent our lives building upon that foundation.

And now Will is helping carry Thompson Family Clinic into another generation.

The buildings have changed. Medicine has changed. Technology has changed. The way physicians diagnose and treat disease has changed dramatically.

But the most important part of medicine has not changed.

It remains the relationship between a patient and the people entrusted with his or her care.

That relationship was at the heart of my father's practice. It was what Jerry protected when he returned every Thursday and Saturday. It has guided Teri and me throughout our years at Thompson Family Clinic, and it is what we hope will continue to define the practice for generations to come.

For our family, Thompson Family Clinic has never simply been a business.

It has been a responsibility, a privilege, and a life's work.

William C. "Tom" Thompson II, DO