Small Business of the month



Dr. Malcom Warren's dental practice is based in midtown Mobile at 2655 Old Shell Road. Pictured above from left are Camille Paulk, Dr. Malcolm Warren, Cathy Nabors, Deidra Dekle, and Jamie Warren.

Family Dentistry Serves Patients for 36-Plus Years

Dr. T. Malcolm Warren grew up in a hospital. His father, Dr. Claude M. Warren Jr. MD, was an ear, nose and throat specialist for more than 55 years in Mobile and often took his son with him to work.

"That's why I got interested in the field of medicine. When I got old enough to go to the hospital with him, I wanted to do what he did," said Warren, adding his father encouraged him to find a field that would allow him some time to spend with family. "He worked from daylight to dusk and he was on-call on weekends."

Through the influence of some friends of his father who were in the field, Warren turned to dentistry. After the UMS graduate earned a degree in general and cosmetic dentistry from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and served a two-year residency at Charity Hospital in New Orleans, Warren returned to Mobile to open his family dental practice in 1977. He has been at the same Old Shell Road location for the last 36 years.

Warren's practice, which includes four full-time employees, is the Mobile Area Chamber's Small Business of the Month.

While at Charity Hospital – the facility where his father also served his residency – Warren received special training in temporomandibular joint (TMJ) disorders, a syndrome causing ear pain but which Warren said is actually caused by displacement of a disc where the lower jaw connects to the skull. As very few dentists or physicians were trained to treat TMJ disorders at the time, Warren said it became "a huge part" of his practice and still accounts for about 30 percent of it today. Warren also has served on the "cleft palate" Mobile area team and has treated patients from the Mobile ARC and Children's Rehabilitation Services since opening his practice. Being able to serve the community through these associations has been a priority and a very rewarding experience for Warren, who has loyal patients who come from all of the surrounding states.

"I just love my patients; some of them I've had since birth," he said. "I enjoy the family relationship we've developed with our patients over the years."

As a Chamber member for 27 years, Warren said he values what the Chamber does for the community and for small businesses like his practice.

Go to mobilechamber.com/award.asp to submit a Small Business of the Month nomination, or contact Danette Richards at 251-431-8652 or drichards@mobilechamber.com.