

LONGSTREET CLINIC CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

When **Victoria Truelove** talks about her own career in health care, she might just as well be speaking about the Clinic for which she works, and in a very real sense, she is.

Victoria launched her nursing profession at Longstreet Clinic at almost the exact same time the Clinic was founded – by physicians at eight single specialty practices who saw the changing landscape of medicine and determined that joining together would provide best care to the patients of northeast Georgia. And it's because of the forward thinking of these physicians and the commitment of staff like Victoria that patients in northeast Georgia continue to trust their care to Longstreet Clinic 30 years after its founding.

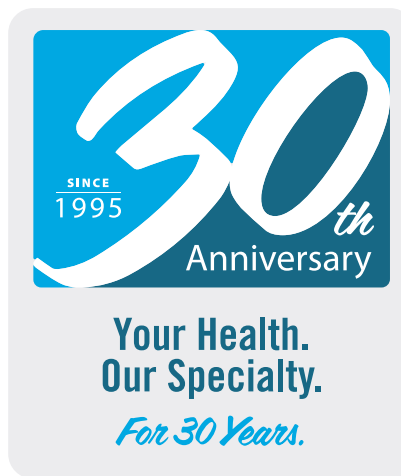
"I've always been evolving and growing and adapting to change in order to do what's best for the patients," Victoria said. "I started in family medicine in an office with one exam room and six providers – and look at us now. But no matter how much we've grown, we still care for patients just the same – if not better than we did back then."

Today, Longstreet Clinic includes almost 200 providers working in 20 specialties across the region. Through the course of its expansion, Longstreet Clinic achieved many milestones, including being the first care provider in the community to adopt electronic medical records. The Clinic also led the way in integrating advanced practice providers into care, with Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, and Physicians Assistants, providing crucial support and access for patients across its vast array of care options.

"Longstreet Clinic was founded by caring physicians – providers who understood what was required to provide patients with the best care available while enabling the expansion of needed medical services and innovation to communities across northeast Georgia," said **Longstreet Clinic CEO Mimi Collins**, who has also been with the Clinic since its founding in 1995. "The Clinic was founded during a time of great change in the healthcare sector, and a group of visionary doctors took it upon themselves to make sure northeast Georgia didn't fall behind."

Longstreet Clinic's commitment to imaging and diagnostic excellence saw the addition of the state's first Voyager MRI, as well as investments in breast screening technology including 3D breast ultrasound (ABUS), 3D mammography, as well as on-site stereotactic and ultrasound-guided biopsies. Yet innovation goes beyond machinery, and Longstreet has also evolved to implement evidence-based care models with a goal of improved health outcomes for patients. These changes include primary care sites achieving recognition as Patient-Centered Medical Homes – a designation that Victoria has taken an active role in.

"We have standards that we have to monitor to achieve these designations," said Victoria, who moved from a strictly clinical role to taking on more administrative responsibilities 14 years ago. "I was also part of the team that helped launch and maintain EPIC (Longstreet Clinic's information system platform and



patient portal). I like learning, and every day offers a challenge for that."

Longstreet Clinic continues to adapt, as the landscape of health care continues to evolve. That is why the Clinic recently announced a formal agreement to join Northeast Georgia Health System – a move that will allow clinic providers to continue to grow, while providing the best care available.

"Longstreet Clinic and NGHS have long partnered to provide high-quality care; including (continued on page 4)

INSIDE

Around the Clinic / 2

Weight Loss / 3

New You Newsletter / 3

Dates to Know / 4

HR Corner / 4

AROUND THE CLINIC

Retired Physicians Luncheon

Longstreet Clinic hosted a lunch and information session for the Clinic's retired physicians. It was great to see so many friendly faces!



Health Fairs

Our team visited employee health fairs for Home Goods and Johnson & Johnson, as well as one for residents of the Village at Deaton Creek.



Cancer Support Group

Nurse Practitioner Jennifer Butler, FNP-C, (front right) coordinated a Disney Cruise for cancer survivors and their families.



Leadership Hall

The Class of 2025 visited Longstreet Clinic this Spring.



COUPLE TACKLES WEIGHT LOSS GOALS TOGETHER



Both Christina and Toby opted to undergo **gastric sleeve surgery** with **Longstreet Clinic Center for Weight Management**. Christina went first, in June

As husband and wife of 15 years, Christina and Toby Cole shared a tight bond. But the couple, who reside in Cumming, Ga., also shared a battle with their weight, and weight-related issues.

So, when each determined to do something about it, their love and support for each other made a big difference in what is now a successful weight loss journey.

2022. Toby followed a few months later.

They've lost a combined 175 pounds, and both say that their shared health journey has brought them closer than ever. "More than anything, being a team and being able to talk and deal with these things together has created a tighter relationship for us," said Toby. After tipping the scales at 245 pounds, Christina has since dropped 100 pounds and is feeling better than ever. Toby, meanwhile, has lost 75 pounds after weighing almost 300 pounds and is making significant progress after dealing with cardiac issues prior to surgery. "I love the way that I feel now," said Christina. "I love how it's changed my body. I also love shopping now. That's not something that was fun before."

Learn more about the Coles' journey and how the Center for Weight Management partners with patients to achieve their goals by visiting longstreetclinic.com/coles.



NEW E-NEWSLETTER GIVES TIPS ON HEALTHY LIVING

Longstreet Clinic's **Center for Weight Management** takes pride in helping our community enjoy a healthy and fulfilling lifestyle. But our doctors, nurses, and dietitians know it's not always easy to maintain an ideal weight, find the right diet, or discover an enjoyable exercise routine in this hectic, modern world. Sometimes you need a little help.

That's why our Center for Weight Management is now offering a **FREE** community e-newsletter. **Sign up today** and you'll start receiving regular updates – which will include tools, tips, and resources to help you achieve and maintain a healthy weight. No matter if you're trying to drop a few pounds or are looking to kick start a serious lifestyle change, we're here to help. Longstreet Clinic's Center for Weight Management is your partner in weight loss.



Scan the code to sign up now!



FOUR NAMED ATLANTA MAGAZINE 'TOP DOCTORS'

We are proud to announce that four Longstreet Clinic physicians recently earned recognition as Atlanta Magazine's Top Doctors for 2025. Longstreet Clinic's honorees were:

- **J. Fernando Aycinena, M.D.**, FACS, FASCRS, Colon & Rectal Surgery
- **Betsy Grunch, M.D.**, FAANS, FACS, Neurosurgery
- **Priscilla Strom, M.D.**, FACS, Breast Surgery
- **Sook K. Yoon, M.D.**, Pain Medicine

This represents the ninth year Dr. Grunch and Dr. Strom have earned this distinction. This is the third time making the feature for Dr. Aycinena and the first for Dr. Yoon. Dr. Strom retired in December 2024 after 30 years in practice (nominations for this year's list were made in 2024).

Each July, Atlanta Magazine recognizes the achievements of Metro Atlanta physicians, placing them as leaders among their peers. The doctors in the feature were selected by Professional Research Services (PRS), a firm based in Michigan, which conducted an online peer-review survey of all licensed physicians in the metro Atlanta area. Physicians were asked to nominate fellow physicians whom they deemed to be the best in their fields of practice. Nominations were screened through verification of licensing and review of any infractions through applicable boards, agencies and rating services.

For 25 years Longstreet Clinic has provided primary and multi-specialty care to families across north Georgia, offering access to innovative healthcare, the latest technologies and advanced treatment options. To learn more about our 20 medical specialties and 9 locations, explore our website or call 770-718-1122.

Benefits BEAT

HR CORNER

From the Desk of
JOHN DIONNE
Human Resources Director

Recently, we rolled out a new Employee Onboarding Program. This exciting program includes new employee orientation, but we've also added additional training and orientation at certain points (2-months, 6-months and 12-months) during an employee's first year with Longstreet Clinic. Our goal in doing this is to make sure our new employees have the information they need, are aware of the resources available to them, and feel that we are investing in them, particularly during that critical first year of employment.

We also ask each group for feedback and always receive such positive feedback on how welcoming everyone is, how nice everyone is and how it feels like a family here at Longstreet Clinic. This feedback has been consistent with each group and that only happens because of the efforts you all make with our new employees! Please keep this up and thank you for all you do.

(continued from page 1) the development of neonatal intensive care units at NGMC Gainesville and Braselton; oncology services, including centers in Braselton and Toccoa; a shared health information platform, called Epic; and a clinically integrated network called HP2," said **Robert Richard, MD, FACS**, bariatric surgeon and president & chairman of the Governing Board of Longstreet Clinic. "This agreement enables us to take our partnership to the next level, eliminates barriers and will help us serve our community in new ways for many years to come." It is just the latest development from a

clinic that strives every day to meet the goals set forward at its founding 30 years ago.

"We're proud of the care we've provided and the work that we've done over the past 30 years. We don't just work here; we live here and take pride in northeast Georgia and want to make it the best place it can be. That commitment is one of the reasons why we have been able to grow and be so successful," Collins said. "We're looking forward to continuing that standard of excellence moving forward and are excited to see what the future will bring."

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Congratulations to **Kavin Sutton**, our Employee of the Quarter (2025 Q1) winner! A Network Administrator, Kavin has been with Longstreet Clinic's IT Department since 2014. His co-workers and supervisors praised Kavin as a pleasant, patient problem solver. "Kavin comes in the department with such knowledge and professionalism. He displays kindness and patience with everyone. He is a hard worker and dependable. We are so thankful to have such a wonderful person like Kavin to help make our world go around," said one coworker. "Kavin is a rare, well-rounded individual who consistently demonstrates dedication and passion for his work in IT. He consistently goes above and beyond expectations," said another.

To nominate, visit longstreetclinic.com/employees



Save the Dates!



HARVEST OF Hope

August 28
Gainesville Civic Center



ANNUAL TAILGATE PARTY

September 18
NoFo Brew Co, Gainesville



Your Health.
Our Specialty.
For 30 Years.

September 20
The Boathouse at Lake Lanier