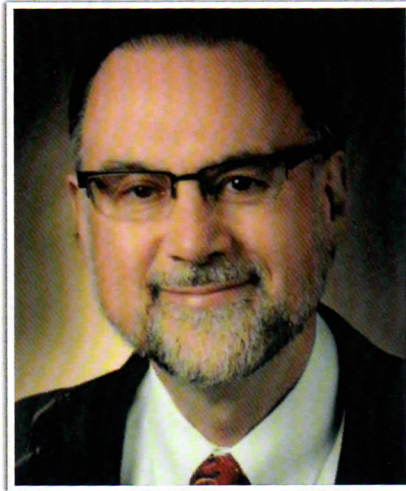


# Traditional

**Dr. Donn R. Chatham**  
**Chatham Facial Plastic Surgery**  
 Louisville, Kentucky  
 New Albany, Indiana

# Values Artistic Beauty



**D**r. Donn Chatham practices in the Ohio River Valley area of Northern Kentucky and Southern Indiana – the area where he grew up – and his caring Southern style matches his patients' expectations. *"They don't want to look like Hollywood people,"* he explained. *"They want to look natural, youthful, and refreshed – and beautiful. That is what I try to provide and my patients seem loyal."*

Many facial plastic surgeons compare their work to artistry, but relatively few of them actually studied art in college – and beyond. And many plastic surgeons say they try and understand what their patients really want, but Dr. Chatham majored in Psychology, graduating cum laude from Georgetown College – so he really does. Those are just two of the ways that Dr. Donn Chatham may be distinctly different from the mainstream surgeon.

A man who defines himself by his caring attitude for each of his patients – as individuals – Dr. Chatham has been called by one magazine as a Renaissance Man, and with remarkably good reason.

He is the son of a small-town family doctor, who practiced cradle-to-grave medicine – including house calls – in Shelbyville, Kentucky, setting an example his son has tried to live up to.

He is a board-certified leader in his profession, having taught at medical schools, authored and edited medical textbooks – and he has served as *President of the American Academy of Facial Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, AAFPRS*, the world's largest specialty organization for facial plastic surgeons. Many colleagues at plastic surgery seminars know him as the producer of sometimes humorous videos that illustrate encounters between doctors, staff and patients, designed to teach as well as entertain.

He continues to study art in his spare time (sculpting camp with the Art Students League of New York recently) creating works of art as well as cartoons with emphasis on plastic surgery – when he says he is both a scientist and an artist, he really means it. He is a man who gives back, founding and volunteering for the AAFPRS "Faces of Honor" program, in which plastic surgeons provide pro-bono services

for American Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans who suffered disfiguring facial injuries. *"We designed Faces of Honor to show our unwavering support for those who protect America and other countries,"* he explained.

A man of deep and abiding faith, Dr. Chatham has traveled to other countries as both a surgeon and medical missionary. This includes two trips to Croatia, in the aftermath of that country's devastating war, where he treated soldiers and civilians injured in that conflict. He's also traveled to Borneo, St. Vincent's Island, Ecuador and Guatemala. But who is the man behind this impressive list of achievements? Unlike some aesthetics-only colleagues, Dr. Chatham is a full-service facial plastic surgeon who also provides reconstructive surgery following accidents and skin cancer, as well as facial rejuvenation.

*"In my nearly 29 years of practice in the Ohio River Valley bridging Kentucky and Indiana, I have built my practice around a lesson my father – a small-town family doctor in the best sense of the word – taught me,"* he explained. *"Every patient is the most important person in the world, while they are here with me."*

A devoted Christian who practiced his faith as well as his profession, he also taught me to be kind, explaining that *"everyone's fighting a mighty battle, but you can't know the battle they face."*



*"Today's world is a different world, a harder world, but I find that by following his example, practicing my faith as well as my profession, and by trying to make sure that everyone is a bit better when they leave than when they arrived, I have built a successful practice."*

It would not have happened without his wife, Janet, who not only helps run his practice but home-schools their two children as well

He is a solo practitioner, with two offices and four employees. His practice is anchored in Louisville, and May means the Kentucky Derby – the time leading up to that once-a-year two-week spectacular is particularly busy for Dr. Chatham.

*"My patients want to be ready for the parties, events, fund-raisers and 'close encounters' with celebrities."*

Whether it's getting ready for the Derby or just getting ready to face life more confidently, his patients have very specific expectations, and Dr. Chatham strives to make sure he understands what his patients really want and need. *"I want to be their advocate and their guide."*

*"I've found that understanding what patients really want is the key to happy patients and a successful practice,"* he explained. *"They either have a problem that they'd like resolved, or they want to hang onto their youthful beauty. Every one of my patients depends on my expertise to deliver three things: Minimal discomfort, rapid recovery and natural results. They want to 'look like themselves' – their ideal selves."*

He also spends a lot of time pre-operatively, building honest and achievable expectations. *"If we feel a patient is so caught up in the dream that he or she isn't hearing our honest evaluation of what she can expect, we*

*discourage the procedure. Sometimes that means that we delay a procedure, or that we do no procedure – whatever is best for them is best for us."*

*"We assure our patients that we would rather under-treat than over-treat them. We don't want them looking like some Hollywood stars, with excessive nose reductions, duck lips or lifts that are pulled too tight. My patients appreciate this. Patients who want extreme procedures tend to go elsewhere."*

*"My patients are local – and they have local expectations. My compassionate style of service meets their needs."*

Like many plastic surgeons, Dr. Chatham is finding that an increasing number of his patients are looking for non-surgical or minimally-invasive procedures, rather than surgical solutions to their problems. "This has caused me to shift my own practice, to better help my patients to receive the care they really want," he said. "For those who want minimal, non-surgical solutions, we provide topical treatments. For those who want a bit more, we offer non-ablative lasers, Botox™ and fillers such as Juvederm™ and Restylane™, along with chemical peels. Of course, surgery is sometimes the best option"

Whether he's providing reconstructive surgery for accidents or disfiguring facial issues – or providing lifts, or even cancer surgery for older patients – or whether he's providing non-surgical aesthetic and cosmetic procedures, Dr. Donn Chatham remains committed to his patients, to their needs, and to what highlights their natural, youthful, refreshed beauty.

