

## Orlando Business Journal's Community Outreach Heroes for 2009

BY MELANIE STAWICKI AZAM, JENNA REW  
AND MEGAN VANWAUS

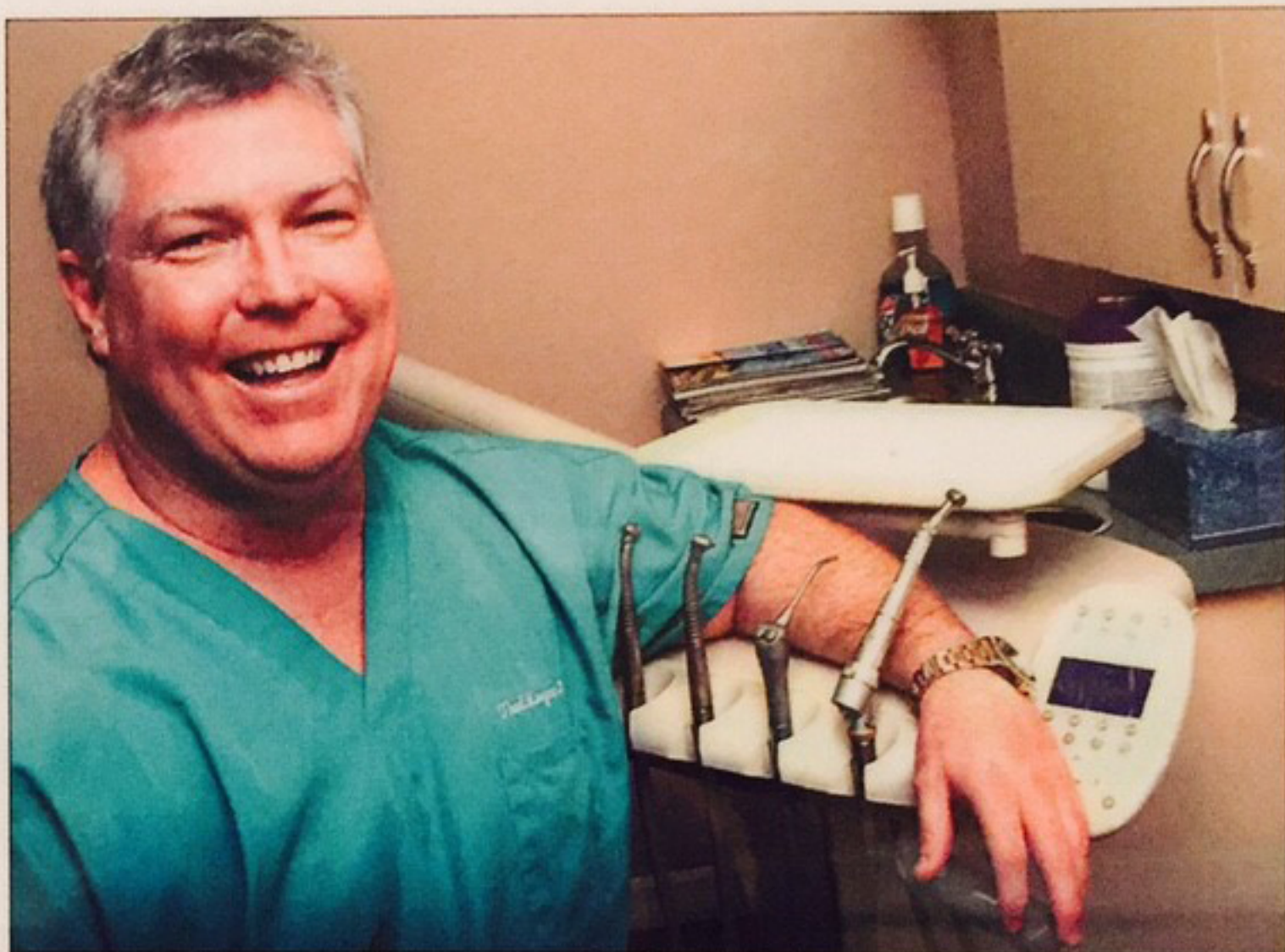
### Dr. J. Thaddeus Morgan

Growing up poor himself, J. Thaddeus Morgan knows many needy children and adults don't have access to dental care — and he wants to change that. "I understand the other side of the coin, because I was there."

The 42-year-old Lake Mary dentist has been involved in many efforts to expand dental care to Central Floridians in need, including the Health Care Center for the Homeless Inc.'s expansion of its Orange Blossom Family Health Center in downtown Orlando. He also worked to establish a new program, which began in September, in which University of Florida dental students provide treatment at the center's clinic.

Morgan — one of three winners in the Orlando Business Journal's 2009 Health Care Heroes Community Outreach category — also co-founded and volunteers at the Dental Care Access Foundation Inc., which provides dental care for low-income Central Floridians.

Morgan is vice chairman of the Florida Board of Dentistry and is working on legislation that could expand the reach of preventive dental care to more than 100,000 children statewide.



JIM CARICHI

**Dr. J. Thaddeus Morgan provides free dental care to homeless people in his spare time.**

#### **PERSONAL.**

**Career goal as a child:** To be a doctor.

**First job:** A busboy at Lee & Rick's Oyster Bar in Maitland.

**A change I'd like to see:** Insurance reform and an emphasis on prevention.

**Hardest thing about my job:** Nobody likes to see the dentist.

**Key business lesson learned:** If you treat people right, the money will come.

**Favorite memory in my career:** While I was volunteering at the

homeless center, a girl named Mary Jo came in with a broken tooth. I did her dental repairs for free on my birthday and she brought me a birthday present, a figurine of the Last Supper.

**Community involvement:** Co-founded the Boys & Girls Club of Eatonville's lecture series, "Keeping It Real," which involves African-American role models sharing their stories with young people; Winter Park High School Hall of Fame volunteer.

**Hobbies:** Travel, fitness, outdoor activities.