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## Dr. Steve Badolato Is Philanthropist, Educator

By MARIA SONNENBERG • July 31, 2010

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THE BADOLATO FAMILY HEALTH STAFF: (Standing ,left to right) Michelle Cooper, Wendi Vogt, Bethany Cannon, Shannon Lugo, Brittany Johnston, Kris Jones, Ilona Fleischman, Melanie Hall, Maria Hughes and Cristina Placyk. Bottom Row: Christine Garza, Julie Rhome, Kat Rendon, and Kurtis Pcolka.

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It's impossible not to like Dr. Stephen Badolato, president of the [Brevard County Medical Society](#), and [Brevard Physicians Network](#) member. Caring, energetic, engaged, he's any patient's perfect physician.

No wonder the man has been listed in the Guide of America's Top Physicians.

Here's the skinny on Dr. Steve: Badolato is board certified in family medicine and specializes in sports medicine. A graduate of the University of South Florida School of Medicine, he completed his fellowship training in sports medicine at Ohio State University, where he served as a team physician for the

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DR. STEVE BADOLATO is board certified in family medicine, specializing in sports medicine, and has been a BPN member for the last 10 years.

Buckeyes.

He attained a faculty position as a fellow at Ohio State University in the Department of Sports Medicine. He keeps in touch with academia as assistant clinical faculty member of Florida State University's medical school, where he serves as instructor of non-operative orthopedics and sports medicine.

With a multi-faceted practice and an important position with the Medical Society, most physicians would have little time for anything else, but Badolato somehow manages to also focus strongly on



COMMENCEMENT: Steve gets a hug from his Grandmother, Ginny, upon graduation from the University of South Florida Medical School.

mission work.

His pals include award-winning Florida Today reporter John Torres and Joe Hurston of Mobile Air Ministries in Titusville, both heavily committed to helping the poor around the world.

"I have done multiple medical mission trips," said Badolato.

"I began when I was in medical school with work primarily in various Central America countries. Recently I have become more involved with the Haiti relief effort and our practice was the central staging location for medical supplies and aid for multiple Haiti relief missions after the earthquake."

This wasn't the first time Badolato had helped in Haiti. "I began working with an orphanage on the outskirts of Port Au Prince prior to the earthquake," said Badolato.

"John, Joe, and I have done mission work together in both Nicaragua and Haiti. These experiences have been a life-changing experience for me and my family."

Not only were the mercy trips emotionally enriching, but they resulted in an expansion of the Badolato family. "Through my work with Haiti, we added a new addition to our family," said Badolato, referring to a five-year-old cutie named Lensa.

"She came to us about a year ago, through the Reach Out to Haiti Orphanage that I am involved with. She had suffered horrific third-degree burns of almost her entire left arm, which required immediate medical attention to prevent amputation or death."

### ALTRUISTIC ACT OF HUMANITY

At 21 pounds, Lensa was withering fast. The only home she had known was a Port Au Prince shanty with a dirt floor. Badolato coordinated with her evacuation from Haiti, housing, and care of Lensa, who with a temporary U.S. medical visa arrived in Brevard, her eventual home.

"**Doctor John Hermansdorfer**, an orthopedic surgeon, and **Dr. Michael Diaz**, a plastic surgeon here in Melbourne, performed multiple miraculous surgeries to reconstruct her arm and apply skin grafts," said Badolato.

"Dr. Hermansdorfer and Dr. Diaz had found out about Lensa and her



Dr. Michael Diaz

injuries and contacted me to help. Their altruistic act of humanity and care has changed Lensa's and my family's life forever.

"She had little to no function of her arm prior to the surgeries and now has significant ability to use her arm and hand, and now weighs over 40 pounds, double her body weight in a year."

Badolato and his family, which includes wife Milagros, a.k.a. Millie, and nine-year-old Elizabeth, fell in love with Lensa's inner courage and strength.

"We found out she was adoptable, and after long prayer, we decided to keep her forever," said Badolato.

"I will always be grateful to Dr. Hermansdorfer and Dr. Diaz for their kindness and skill in saving my daughter's limb and life, and am honored to call them friends."



Dr. John Hermansdorfer



MISSIONARY: Dr. Badolato has done work in both Nicaragua (at left) and Haiti, which he says were life-changing experiences for him and his family.

Badolato continues with his relief efforts for Haiti. Together with Dr. Gopal Gadodia's wife, Nina, he recently helped raise more than \$220,000 for Lensa's Haitian orphanage through the IndiaFest event.



Nina Gadodia

Badolato had his own taste of rough times when he attended medical school. "I was homeless for about five months in Boston where I attended Northeastern University, pretty cold when you have nowhere to stay, said Badolato.

"I was renting a top room in a building in Roxbury next to the school and came home one day and found the building was condemned because there were people dealing drugs on the bottom floor, unbeknownst to me," he said.

"Didn't matter much, I was always away either at the library studying, working, or at the gym, but it wasn't easy to find another place I could afford at the time, so I lived mostly in a small laundry room in the basement of an apartment next to Fenway."

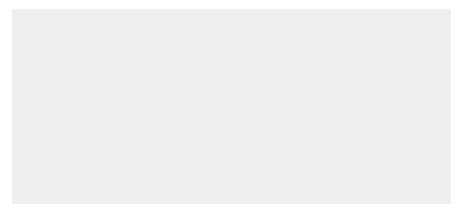
For showers, Badolato availed himself of the YMCA. For food, he scarfed from the Boston Harbor dinner ship where he worked as waiter. Everything he owned fit in a black garbage bag. "It was a tough experience but I am thankful for it, for it made me a stronger and a more self-reliant person," he said.

From frigid Northeastern University, Badolato hopped to a balmy clime while in medical school at the University of South Florida and then during residency in family medicine in Jacksonville.

#### BCMS PRESIDENT

At the helm of the Brevard County Medical Society, he directs the 100-year-old-plus organization, which advocates for both patients and physicians in the Space Coast.

"The challenges this year are unique because of the recent healthcare changes coming out of Washington," said Badolato.





DR. STEVE BADOLATO was installed as the 96th President of the Brevard County Medical Society during the organization's 2010 Installation Dinner last April. Above left, Drs. John Potomski, Ara J. Deukmedjian and Lance Grenevicki were installed as officers along with Dr. Badolato.

"With the recent passage of the controversial federal health care reform legislation, both physicians and our patients face uncertain times on how healthcare will be delivered in the future. In fact, important Medicare legislation is still unresolved.

Congress continues to put off finalization month after month on this critical component of healthcare for seniors and the disabled until after the mid-term elections.

"As president of the Medical Society, I find it important to keep our members informed and actively engaged in the process to be effective as the new regulations and changes occur.

"Next month at our annual Florida Medical Association meeting in Orlando, it will be important for myself and our BCMS board to represent our county as we create and pass medicine-related resolutions, which will potentially impact the healthcare law for the State of Florida," said Badolato.

#### BPN MEMBER FOR A DECADE

His practice, Badolato Family Health, has been a member of the Brevard Physicians' Network (BPN) for nearly a decade.

"BPN is a fantastic resource for our practice, allowing us to be freed from many administrative challenges involved with contractual agreements with insurance companies," said Badolato.

"The value BPN can have for Brevard physicians is measured through the services they provide," said Dr. Badolato.

"For our practice, these services have included credentialing of new physicians, negotiating and contracting with various insurance companies and assisting with authorization and referral issues. BPN value is measurable and has been demonstrated with increased revenue and cost saving for our practice."

Not one for formalities, Badolato prefers being called Dr. Steve.

"I have an identical twin brother, David, who is a family physician," begins his explanation.

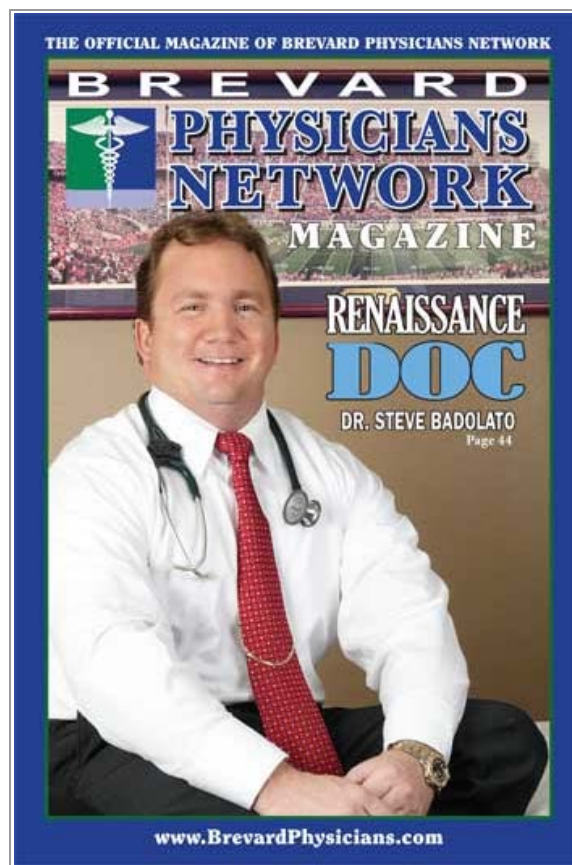
The Badolato twins both opted for medicine in their second year of college after shadowing a friend's physician father.

"We attended the same medical school and same residency program," said Badolato.

After residency, Dr. David went to Melbourne to open his practice, while Dr. Steve opted for the Ohio State University fellowship, until brother Dave called.

"My brother needed help with his practice and convinced me to come start Premier Urgent Care Center as an adjunct to our practice," said Badolato.

"We work together, so to avoid confusion, we go by Dr. Dave and Dr. Steve."



Dr. Stephen Badolato accepts new patients who require the evaluation and treatment of acute and chronic orthopedic conditions, as well as sports-related injuries.

Premier Urgent Care is located at 6300 N. Wickham Rd., Suite 101 in Melbourne, Florida. You can reach Dr. Badolato at 321-253-2169.




Premier Urgent Care staffers include, left to right, Megan Maynard, Bianca Gordon, Kris Jones, Kira Diaz, and Aimee Burghardt.

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Steve,

Kudo's brother, God is glorified through you and your group. Thanks for your heart most importantly!! Miss you and Millie!!

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