

MEET BVHS BOARD MEMBER

Dr. Robert Schutz

Compassionate. Caring. Skilled. Knowledgeable. Friend. These are all terms patients have used to describe Dr. Robert Schutz, an obstetrician and gynecologist with Bluffton Women's Care. A man dedicated to his work and renowned for his bedside manner, Dr. Schutz is one of the area's best known and most well-respected OB/GYNs. He also happens to be a member of the Blanchard Valley Health System Board of Trustees, helping to lead BVHS to the future of medical care.

A Findlay native, Dr. Schutz knew he wanted to enter the medical field from a young age. He joined buckeye nation as part of The Ohio State University where he completed his undergraduate degree and met his wife, then moved to Toledo to complete medical school at the Medical College of Ohio. A residency led him to Akron, Ohio where he started his practice, began to raise his family and remained for 16 years. But Northwest Ohio and the Flag City kept calling, and family roots brought Dr. Schutz "home" in 2002. "I have strong ties to my family," he explained. "The opportunity to be close to my parents and siblings, and raise my children close to family, brought me back."

Family isn't just part of Dr. Schutz's life, it's the center of his world. Along with his wife, Betsy, he has six children, including four adopted children. Daughters Katie and Molly are grown with families of their own, giving Dr. Schutz one of his favorite titles – grandpa – while son Matthew

and daughter Becca are college students. Daughters Caroline and Emma are students at Cory-Rawson High School, where you may see Dr. Schutz from time to time cheering on the soccer team or attending school performances. Never wanting to miss a family moment, Dr. Schutz says he enjoys photography as a way to capture memories. "I don't have time for very many hobbies," he said. "But, I do enjoy photography and practice it as often as I can at family gatherings."

The Schutz family makes their home nestled amongst farmland and woods between Findlay and Bluffton. This location made his late 2015 transition to serving patients in Bluffton seamless. "Even though



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my office was in Findlay, I had been completing deliveries in Bluffton for 12-13 years," Dr. Schutz explained. "So when the opportunity came about to both practice

and deliver in Bluffton, I thought it was a great fit." So, Dr. Schutz packed his bags and moved south, joining Bluffton Women's Care.

In addition to his medical practice and family commitments, Dr. Schutz also spends his time serving as a member of the BVHS Board of Trustees, a position he holds as part of his role as the medical staff president. "I serve as a liaison between the medical staff

and administration," Dr. Schutz explained. "I have an opportunity to share ideas and learn as well."

The role came about as part of his curiosity in the changing landscape of medicine. "Several years ago I could see the doctor/patient relationship changing, and I thought by coming more involved with the business side of medicine I could help bridge the gap between that and the care side of practicing to find a happy medium. And, I'm so glad that I did," he said. "Now that I understand the framework hospital administrators work under, so many changes make sense to me. I have learned so much about insurance companies, government regulations and more."

Dr. Schutz said he is continually impressed by the dedication of BVHS's community-led board. "One of the best parts of being on the board is seeing how patients are at the center of decision making. Other places I have worked, I haven't always felt that's true. But here, every board member is vested in ensuring BVHS provides exceptional service. They are especially dedicated to making sure we have excellent physicians and providers."

In addition to being surrounded by exceptional board members, Dr. Schutz remarks that at BVHS he is surrounded by truly extraordinary people. "I am blessed to be part of a wonderful hospital family, which is important because I can spend more time with them than at home!" he joked. "I enjoy the relationships I have with associates and patients. People here truly care about one another. It's one of the many reasons I love my job."