



Two weeks before I was born, my parents opened The Drug Shop in Moulton, Alabama. Basically, all my childhood was spent at the drugstore. Let me add this; my mom did not believe in me "just hanging around The Drug Shop." Not at all.

I was expected to work while I was there. The large plate-glass windows and glass doors had to be cleaned once a week. You can guess whose job that was...

I witnessed the sacrifices my parents made daily to better their community by always putting their customers first, no matter the cost. I watched them both serve each person daily in a genuine manner. They truly loved our community, and they displayed it.

As I grew up, I developed a love and appreciation for our community by watching and experiencing my parents serve the people of Lawrence County.

I entered college, not certain of the profession I desired for my life. On the inside, I had a longing to follow in my parent's footsteps and serve our community as a pharmacist, but I was not sure I had what it took to carry on the legacy. Knowing what I know now, I am sure glad I decided to commit myself to this calling.

In summer 1979, when I received my acceptance letter to the school of pharmacy at Auburn University, I knew that day beyond any doubt that this was my true calling and direction for my life. After I graduated pharmacy school in the Spring of 1982, I worked as a pharmacist in the Birmingham area for two years.

In the spring of 1984, I received a call from a friend who wanted to build a drug store for me in Moulton. This sounded like a perfect path to get back to my hometown, and after much discussion and prayer, I made the major decision to move forward with this idea.

I decided to leave my job in early July of 1984 and move back to Moulton to help my parents in their drug store become acclimated to the new pharmacy computer system while the drug store was being built.

The doors to Steve's Drugs were opened on August 28, 1984, with a planned Grand Opening for Tuesday, September 11, 1984. Unfortunately, my dad was unexpectedly killed in a tractor accident Sunday, September 9, 1984. We rescheduled the grand opening for Tuesday, September 25, 1984. At the time of my dad's death, I was 26 years old, and I had been looking forward to soaking up mentoring from my parents as I began my journey of owning my own pharmacy. Without my dad, our family had to adjust to a new normal.

My mom chose to take on both hers and my dad's roles and responsibilities at The Drug Shop. While establishing my own pharmacy, I also made the sacrifice to help my mom by opening her store early in the mornings until she was able to find some help. This continued for a year and a half.

Tom Arnold, a friend, a pharmacy mentor, and who was also my professor in pharmacy school, decided to move back to Alabama from Rochester, Minnesota, where he had been working and doing research at the Mayo Clinic. One day, Tom came by Steve's Drugs to say hello, and we reconnected that day. Mom was wearing thin with her responsibilities, and she needed more help than I could provide. Tom was a lifesaver for The Drug Shop and a blessing to me. Tom began working at The Drug Shop, alongside my mom, four days a week, and at Steve's Drugs one day a week, in March 1986.

Tom remains a cherished friend and continues to serve as a pharmacist to this very day. He compliments our outstanding team here at Steve's Drugs.

How Steve's Drugs has changed while remaining true to our roots

After Steve's Drugs being in business for seven years, in September of 1991, Steve's Drugs moved to its current location at 11809 Al. Hwy. 157 Suite A, Moulton, Al. 35650.

Moving into the new location allowed us to have a drive-up window, which was a new concept in retail pharmacies at that time.

Over the years, we have seen countless & wonderful changes. As well as many new, helpful drugs have been created and developed that increase and improve the quality of people's lives. We have also seen technology grow by leaps and bounds, and the possibilities are endless with today's technology.

Being a pharmacist is and has been challenging, but it also comes with great rewards in that we can help people deal with and improve whatever they are medically or physically going through. We are interested in and invested in good patient outcomes. Hearing the updates and outcomes of situations where we could participate in and help in someone's life are part of the great rewards, such as hearing about a child recovering from an ear infection or an adult who had pneumonia and recovered. The list of situations goes on and on.

We have been blessed to be part of people's lives for many generations. Our customers and our employees become part of our family, and we grow to know them and love them as we do our own families. The hardest part for us is when we lose someone. It hurts very deeply because we have developed relationships with them and their families over the years, and we truly care about each one of them.

- Steve McLemore