



James III, Steven, Bert, James "Jad," and Robert Jr. "Bob" Donohoe

# The Donohoes

The family that keeps giving — to the business

The Donohoe Cos. Inc. may be one of the oldest full-service real estate businesses in the area, but it has learned to adapt to the times.

The company just celebrated its 125th birthday with a large picnic in Southern Maryland — a sharp contrast from the grandiose black-tie affair in 1984 at one of its projects, Georgetown Park, to celebrate 100 years of business.

"That was appropriate for the time,"

says Bert Donohoe, who was then a just-out-of-college employee collecting rent checks at the 100-person company. "This time we wanted to focus it more on an employee-based celebration to thank them."

Today Bert is a senior vice president in the real estate services division, and the company has 675 employees, including fourth- and fifth-generation family members like himself.

He and his brother Steve are two of three children who work for the business. Although their father was a doctor, Steve was attracted to real estate early on.

"When I was a little kid — before I knew the family was in the business — I was fascinated with construction equipment," says Steve, who is president of the construction division and has been with the company for 31 years. "I would stare at bulldozers and cranes and want to know how they worked."

Their first cousin Jim, 63, is CEO of the

company. Bert likes to say that the 17-year age difference between him and Jim is symbolic of a large Catholic family.

"A lot of this business you understand by osmosis, sitting around the dining room table," says Jim, who started at the company in 1961 when he was 15 and currently works closely with his brother Bob, senior vice president, on acquisitions.

Bob's son, Bob Jr., is vice president of Donohoe Development Co.

Bob Jr. just had a baby this year, marking another generation of Donohoes. (Family members laughingly ask: How soon can he start?)

"How we all work together is probably a mystery to a lot of people because there are so many of us," Jim says.

Steve thinks he has the answer. "Everyone has found a spot where they fit in and where they think they can make a contribution."

— Tierney Plumb