

Don Castro



Don was born in Buffalo, NY on January 17, 1942. His father immigrated from Spain to the United States in the early 1900's, met & married Don's mother who lived in Buffalo making the area their home. All Don's school years were in Buffalo where he graduated with a BS in Business Administration from the University of Buffalo in 1973. While married with 3 children and a full time day job, he did all his college work at night. Math & History were his favorite subjects.

Growing up, Don was into activities such as the Boy Scouts. He learned to tie a few knots while having the value system his parents & church had instilled be reinforced. Delivering the Buffalo Evening News after school each day initiated a great work ethic that would later assist in his decision to go for a degree in Business Administration.

Don served as an altar boy from the 5th grade through High School at his church, Blessed Trinity in Buffalo. He speaks fondly of the 100 year old church which is very ornate & modeled after a church in Rome. He tremendously enjoyed this time of service & says the most awe-inspiring times were midnight Christmas Eve Mass with multiple choirs & priests joining in the ceremonies.

Don participated in many sporting activities. He played church league softball off & on for 15 years. He slipped into a pair of ice skates for the first time when his son, David became interested in hockey. He enjoyed the sport so much that he subsequently coached Youth Hockey League teams for the next 20 years.

Don met his wife, Judith when they both worked for Graphic Controls. They made charts for meters like electrocardiograms, industrial temperature controls, etc. Don says he was attracted to Judith because she was a good looking lady with a sweet personality. They dated for 2 or 3 years and were married in April, 1963. They lived in Buffalo until their employer transferred them to the Nashville area in 1990. Don & Judith live in Franklin & attend St Matthew Catholic Church. They have 3 children, Karen who lives in Glasgow, KY, David in Kalispell MT & Cheryl in San Diego, CA.

Don first began volunteering with Habitat in 2008 with the 2 Nissan builds on Natchez St. He thoroughly enjoyed it & has kept coming back ever since. He says he didn't know much about carpentry work having never installed a door, window, etc., but has learned a lot in the past 2 years. He says that working with partner families, other Crew Leaders & staff is fantastic. He supports Habitat's mission primarily due to a shared philosophy of it being "a hand up rather than a hand out". Don's favorite part of the volunteer experience is watching the walls go up & the Dedication Ceremonies.