

Families That Give Back

Meet Ken and Esther Corcoran



Ken and Esther Corcoran met about 20 years ago on a missionary trip to Mexico that Esther had to be talked into attending. She had a busy job and life, and was caring for a young relative. But her interpreter skills were sorely needed on the trip; she eventually relented and said yes. She is so glad she did.

Esther's parents, Marita and Rene Herrera, came to the United States from Cuba in 1961. Esther was 10 at the time and along with her six siblings, settled into a new country and culture. Her parents learned about Senior Services for South Sound, and wanted to be of service. Her mom taught Spanish and played piano at the Olympia Senior Center. Rene

regularly attended Senior Services events, and one year he invited Ken to sit at his table. Ken was inspired by the seniors who shared their stories, and the agency's programs. As a City of Olympia employee and family man he had a busy life; he wanted to give back too. A few years later he joined the Board of Directors.

Both Ken and Esther hope more people will learn about the variety of services at Senior Services – from respite for caregivers to fitness classes to learning about different cultures through academic classes. They financially contribute to Senior Services because they know the difference it made when Marita was homebound, and a Meals on Wheels volunteer arrived with nutritious meals for the week, along with a warm smile. That also inspired Carlos, Esther's brother, to volunteer as a Meals on Wheels driver.

When asked what they'd like our readers to know about why they give, Ken answered, "We're just ordinary, regular people, Baby Boomers now. Every gift helps, and when you add up the gifts from many people, it can make a real difference. Senior Services helps people make new friends, stay connected, and engaged with life, no matter what age "senior" you might be."

What's in Ken and Esther's future? Attending our Meals That Matter Luncheon on May 22 and walking the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage in Spain this August. We imagine Esther might do a little interpreting along the walk, and when she returns, look for her on the road, as she plans to deliver nutritious meals and warm smiles to homebound seniors, just like someone once did for her mom.

Want to make a personal difference?

For more information, please contact Pam Toal, Gift Planning Manager, at 360.586.6181, ext. 106 or ptoal@southsoundseniors.org.