

SPOTLIGHT *Sue Parent*

The 5th largest city in Minnesota is Duluth, a seaport city on Lake Superior. It also happens to be where Susan Ferrera's story began as the first-born bambina on the final night of the 1957 World Series. Her homemaker mom (recently deceased) and systems analyst dad followed up with 2 brothers and 2 sisters who like she, have mostly ended up in Florida. All the kids were athletic, with Sue favoring softball and her beloved hockey where she made headlines as her team's goalie.

There is an ease and honesty about Sue. It's not surprising to me that she spent several of her younger years farming. There's something about farming that's straight-forward and peels away all pretense. Tomatoes, melons and sweet corn were her game, growing and selling to the local Minnesota grocery stores.

She's also worked as a legal administrator, waitress and sold lingerie, but the Briggs-Meyers test she took when she was a young girl proved to be accurate in tagging her as a domestic goddess. Although not a homebody per se, Sue believes her best work is done cooking, entertaining, crafting, gardening and general homemaking. She quilts, making bedspreads, purses and pillows.

Sue met Bob Parent at a Florida wedding in 1989 and it was love at first sight. Then came Tyler their son, now 23 and attending the University of Arkansas. Bob's occupation as a site developer for several restaurant chains starting with General Mills has kept them moving. They lived in Texas for some time, moved back to Minnesota, back to Texas and then relocated here to where Bob grew up, in 2013. He remains part owner of CiCi's and has been retired since 2008.

She loves, loves, loves to travel and is leaving for an extended road trip with Bob in their 42' bus, trekking as far west as Texas on their upcoming maiden voyage. Sue's the kind of gal that will embrace the RV life of improvising and toughing it out, if necessary. She's a real camper - no pun intended!

When Tyler gave his mom marching orders as a school volunteer at age 14, Sue began her volunteerism with charitable clubs. In Texas, she co-chaired *Christmas for Children*, fundraising for 1500 kids and participated in huge food drives. Sue and Bob have been extremely generous supporters at our gala events since joining The HWC, and Sue has given much time to our club in a short period of time. This year, she is the Programs Chairperson.

Sue is also a distributor for Youngevity, a natural health and beauty company. She and Bob are hoping to scale down and move over to the Mt. Dora area where Bob's children live, but we hope we keep Sue when that happens. We need more - not less - of members like her!



BY CAROLYN TAYLOR