

Sharing Center celebrates 20-year anniversary

By Sheila Kramer



the
Sharing
center

Although Angie Romagosa studied social work in college, she never expected to have a 20-year career at the helm of a not-for-profit charity providing food, clothing, and household necessities.

"My husband Mark and I were childhood sweethearts," Angie recalls with a sparkle in her eye. "I remember just wanting to get married and have children."

And they did. Mark and Angie, and their two children were relocated to Central Florida from their home in Savannah, Georgia.

"I immediately became involved in my church, serving on the pastoral council," says Angie. "The council wanted to organize a counseling agency with a food pantry. They were looking for an executive director and a part-time assistant. It seemed like a good idea, so I applied for the job of part-time assistant." The council had other ideas.

"I never dreamed that they would offer me the job of executive director or that I could actually do it," says this vivacious woman with an incredibly appealing smile. "They offered me the full-time position, with part-time pay. I guess it was just meant to be!"

Longwood residents, Mark and Angie are now grandparents of three, with one on the way. "Mark came on board at the

Sharing Center after a 21-year career in sales," says Angie. "His company reorganized and he faced retirement at age 50.

This wasn't something we were prepared for, but the timing was fine.

Our kids were out on their own, so Mark didn't need a big salary. His

sales background really came in handy. A few years ago we had a 45-day window in which we had to raise \$200,000 to complete the \$500,000 needed for the down payment to purchase the shopping center we are in. Amazingly, Mark started a capital campaign and accomplished the task. The board then decided to hire him as development director."

Now beginning its 21st year, the Longwood center helps people from all walks of life during times of need. "The recent food collection by our local mailmen helped stock the shelves



Angie and Mark Romagosa

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The Sharing Center facility on 17-92 houses the counseling center, food pantry, and thrift store.

of the food pantry," says Angie. "We help people whose lives have been interrupted." The thrift store that occupies space next to the Sharing Center is full of furniture and household items that have been donated.

"Make sure to tell people we take food and household donations and that we will come and pick up furniture items they don't need any more," pleads center volunteer and board member Joan Levy. "Angie's a Steel Magnolia. She guides the Sharing Center's business with the determination of a Fortune 500 CEO. Yet, she's passionate about providing excellent client services and truly cares about those who seek help from the center. Angie and Mark are the original dynamic duo."

This story was suggested by Reverend Paul Hoyer.

JMK

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