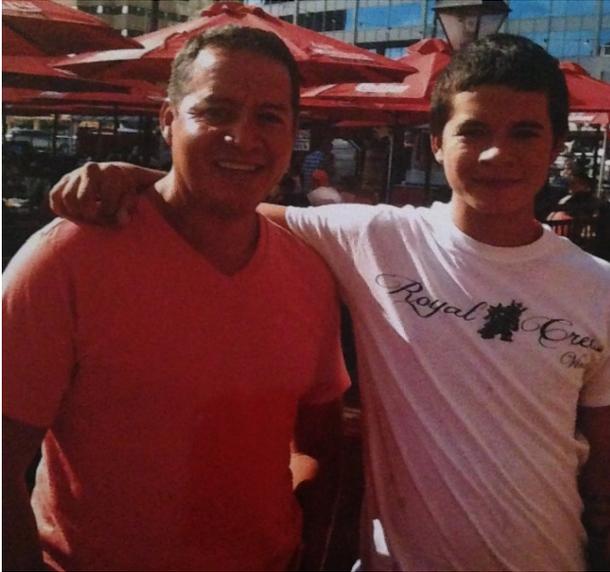


WELCOMING PRINCETON

Recognizing the contributions made by newcomers and immigrants

OSORIO LANDSCAPING



Highly respected in Princeton is Osorio Landscaping, a business started by Vicente and Teresa Osorio. Teresa recently lost her husband to cancer and she sat down with us to share their story. Mr. Osorio was born in Salcajá, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. He came to the United States in 1985 when he was 18 years old, following two brother-in-laws to the Princeton area. He later met his wife, Teresa who is a US native of Italian descent. They shared a 23-year marriage and have four children and two grandchildren. Mr. Osorio worked as a chef for 21 years before deciding to translate his skills from the kitchen to the garden. He began by taking care

of the yard of one home. Today, the business has 89 customers and they handle all types of landscaping, hardscaping and lawn care. Mrs. Osorio told us that the family pitched in as they began to develop their business. She said that in the early days, Mr. Osorio was on the shy side and worked to develop a good rapport with clients which quickly became easy for him. Their son, also named Vicente plans to take over the business and we had the pleasure of meeting him as well. We asked Mrs. Osorio what she thought her husband's advice would be to other immigrants trying to find the path to their American dream. She thought he would say "Go for it and don't look back!" Mrs. Osorio told us that the Princeton community can help others who wish to make their home here by making them feel welcome. She said "New immigrants may not be born here but that doesn't mean they should be treated differently." Mrs. Osorio also suggested that Princetonians should take advantage of opportunities to get to know other cultures here at home. She told us about Trenton's Guatemalan Festival and Parade which takes place every year in September. It features the diversity of Guatemalan culture as well as showcasing that of other Latin American countries. Her 18-year-old daughter will be featured as the "Princess of Guatemala" on the float this year. The day sounds like lots of fun!

Interview by Avelyn and Emerlee Simons

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