

Miracle Heights gives seniors new residential option

Leonard and Millie Domingo, both experienced nurses, open Happy Valley facility

By SHELLEY MCFARLAND

MIRACLE HEIGHTS

What: Senior residential care facility
Where: 13677 S.E. 147th Ave., Happy Valley
Phone: 503-888-8155
Online: Miracleheights.com
More: Base price starts at \$4,300/month.

“In the Philippines, we don’t really have nursing homes there, we take care of our older family members. So when we came here, we wanted to care for older people because they are precious.”

— Leonard Domingo

Nestled behind Sunnyside Village Square near the Happy Valley Library is Miracle Heights, a new senior living community.

Owned and operated by Leonard and Millie Domingo, the couple’s journey to Happy Valley is an inspiring “American dream” story many immigrants hope for. The two met while attending Central Escorial University in Manila, Philippines, where they both attended nursing school. They graduated in 1993 and married the same year.

After getting their licenses as registered nurses in the Philippines, the couple entered the medical field — Millie in an intensive care unit and Leonard in the pharmaceutical field.

“In the Philippines, it’s a dream of many people to come to America. Nursing is the biggest passport to come to America,” Leonard said. “The Philippines is a developing country, and many Filipinos work as nurses to come to America. We wanted to come to America to earn money and help support our family back home.”

Working in the medical profession runs deep in the Domingos’ families. Three of Leonard’s four siblings are nurses as is his mother, and they have all lived and worked in the United States.

Millie’s grandmother is a nurse, and her grandfather is a doctor. The Domingos immigrated to America in 1997, temporarily leaving their toddler daughter, Camille, in the Philippines with family.

The couple settled first in Connecticut where they were geriatric caregivers while earning their U.S. registered nurse licenses. Within the first year, they earned their RN licenses and brought Ca-



mille stateside.

“At first we worked as CNAs in a nursing home in the East. Work was hard and we were working two jobs and striving to get our licenses so we could be RNs again. After we passed the exam, we continued to work as RNs in long-term geriatric care,” Millie said. “We had seven years’ experience in Connecticut in geriatric care. In the Philippines, we don’t really have nursing homes there, we take care of our older family members. So when we came here, we wanted to care for older people because they are precious.”



Leonard and Millie Domingo opened Miracle Heights Feb. 1. The Happy Valley couple are both RNs.

PHOTOS BY: SHELLEY MCFARLAND



In 2003, the couple moved to Oregon to be closer to family. After hours of training for Leonard to become a care facility operator, they bought a care home that housed five residents. A few years later, they bought a second home



in Portland, along with a small, dementia-focused home.

“After the first home, we bought two other homes and after a few years, we bought another property when we were approached by the state to contract with them on a pilot program,” Millie said. “It was a specialized care program and they liked that we were both RNs. It was designed to help people move from nursing homes into a homelike environment. We bought our third care home in 2006. We operated it for five years and turned it into a 40-bed residential care facility.

After owning a RCF for 10 years, the Domingos sold it to build Miracle Heights, a 25,000-square-foot residential care facility licensed for 47 residents. It officially opened Feb. 1. And currently is accepting applications.

“We searched around the area, and we found that there

are no residential care facilities in Happy Valley, just assisted living, independent living and memory care,” Millie said. “Residential care is between assisted living and a nursing home. We do more than assisted living and a lot of memory care here too. We can accept respite care, too.”

The couple lives in Happy Valley with their youngest daughter, Leslie, who attends La Salle High School. Daughter Camille is now 27 and is a practicing nurse; their son, Leonardo Jr., is in the nursing program at the University of Portland.



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