

The Sammarone Family

MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY TRADITIONS

Beloved by West Chester residents, Up On the Roof is an annual fundraiser fueled by the passion and talent of its Chair, Tracy Sammarone.

Born and raised in Chester County, Tracy knows this area and its people are something special. After graduating from West Chester University and marrying her husband, Mark, the couple settled in West Chester in 1988. They juggled raising daughter Chelsea while both helped grow West Chester's Arthur Hall Insurance into the highly respected independent insurance agent and broker it is today.

Tracy and Mark also fell in love with downtown West Chester: "We felt a strong yearning to be part of such a vibrant downtown community."

Their friend and colleague Jackie Van Grofski noticed Tracy's passion for the Borough. "Jackie was instrumental in creating Up On the Roof as part of her volunteer leadership with the West Chester Downtown Foundation. It was my privilege to volunteer alongside her in those early years," says Tracy.

After Jackie passed the baton to Tracy, the event continued to grow. Serving as chair over the past 15 years, Tracy has seen Up on the Roof evolve from a

gathering of 75 guests to a full-blown celebration with over 400 supporters. On the first Saturday in June atop West Chester's Chestnut Street Parking Garage, guests enjoy an evening under the stars with live music, dinner, desserts, drinks, dancing and a special Rooftop Martini.

Why is it so popular? "Easy!" says Tracy, "It's casual, delicious and tons of fun to be on the roof with friends, enjoying the ambiance, the sunset, and dancing under the stars. It's a great celebration of this community."

Adds daughter Chelsea, "It's three parties in one—a summer evening cocktail hour, sunset reception with live music, and a late-night dance party." "Plus," adds Mark, "proceeds support the beautification and marketing of downtown West Chester, the Historic Preservation Awards and non-profit grants."

For his part, Mark also stays active in the West Chester community, serving as the current Board Chair of the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce, and by volunteering with nonprofit organizations including the CWP Warehouse Project, YMCA of Greater Brandywine, and Rotary Club of West Chester.



Mark's claim to fame may well be his role running the judging room for the Rotary Club's annual West Chester Chili Cook-Off. "I line up judges, and we turn up the heat as they sample chili from more than 50 teams of restaurants, businesses, hometown cooks and nonprofit groups to raise money for good causes."

Up On the Roof and the Chill Cook-Off are possible because of the support of community members, friends, family and businesses.

Kudos to the Sammarone family: inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds to feel the power of charitable giving and make a difference in our communities.

{ WE FELT A STRONG YEARNING
TO BE PART OF SUCH A VIBRANT
DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY. }