



COVER STORY

Wendy Corsetti Launches "Amigas Latinas" Group in Capital District

By Jenna Caputo
Photos by Niki Rossi Photography

Wendy Corsetti learned from an early age to trust her own instincts. Born and raised in Lima, Peru, Wendy has many fond memories of spending the day at the beach with her family. "We would arrive in the morning, bring lunch, and stay until sunset," she reminisces. "Watching the sun set on the Pacific Ocean, the beauty of its colors, is a memory I will cherish in my heart forever."

She also has many wonderful memories of the food. Heralded as some of the best cuisine in the world, the New York Times called Peruvian food, "the original fusion food, having absorbed influences from almost every continent over the last 500 years and melded them with ingredients and dishes that provide a direct link to the Incas." One of Wendy's favorite dishes is the Lorno Saltado – a traditional and very popular stir-fried steak. She also loves Parihuella – a hearty, spicy Peruvian soup that is loaded with seafood, and Ceviche – the internationally popular seafood dish that is typically made from raw fish cured in citrus juices.

Her mother was a nurse and her father was an undercover Sergeant Police Officer. Fearing their family was in danger from the "Shining Path," a violent Peruvian revolutionary terrorist group, Wendy, her mother, father and little sister left Peru in 1991 and joined her older sisters who were already living in Port Chester, NY.

Wendy quickly settled into life in Port Chester. She decided to follow in her mother's footsteps and entered the medical field. She became an MRI/CT Technologist and worked in the field for almost 17 years, starting as a Radiologic Technologist in Port Chester, then taking a job at St. Peters Hospital after moving to the Capital District.

She met her husband, Damien, on New Year's Eve while out with friends. They quickly realized they both loved dancing and it has been a recurring bond in their relationship

ever since. Originally from Newburgh, NY, Damien had just left his job as Al Pacino's personal driver in NYC to pursue a career in teaching when Wendy and Damien met.

The couple married in 2014 with a fun wedding that included a dance off between Damien and the lead singer of the band (there might have been a pair of pants that didn't quite make it...). They decided to move away from the expensive city and find something closer to Damien's family's lake house in the Adirondacks. "We knew we wanted a family-oriented community, low in crime with a good school district, shops, restaurants and close enough to cities. Our search led us to Clifton Park," says Wendy.

Damien is now a second grade teacher at Karigon School in the Shenendehowa School District. After eight years at St. Peter's, Wendy resigned to stay home with their children. "When I worked in a dark MRI suite for eight hours a day, I realized that the job that I once loved wasn't fulfilling me anymore. I wanted to be home with my kids. I knew I was missing precious time with them like their first milestones. Even when the kids started school, I knew I wanted to be home to get them off the bus, to participate in their classrooms." The couple has three children – Angelina (9), Anabelle (8), and Anthony (5). Once all the children were in school full day, Wendy realized she missed earning an income, so she decided to go back to work on her own terms.

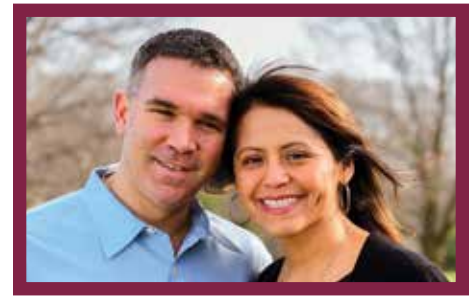
Her friend, Stacy Belyea, owner of Capital District Interpreters, thought she could help. She knew the struggle Wendy's family had while her mom was battling her own medical problems. It was a long, tough road, made much harder by the language barrier, leaving her mother unable to communicate with her doctors. Stacy offered Wendy a flexible job as a medical interpreter and Wendy jumped at the opportunity to help

others in need like her mother. "I love that I'm able to help people who are sick or in need of services who don't speak English. I make them feel comfortable talking to their doctors and health providers. Being sick is scary enough. I try my best to leave every single person I come in contact with feeling better than when I first saw them. I can't make them better physically, but I can leave them feeling happier and loved."

She also decided to join Rodan & Fields Dermatology, the new skincare brand from the women who developed Proactiv. With the flexibility of being 100% an online business, Wendy is able to work from anywhere and choose her hours around her family's schedule. "The income potential is unlimited. Because of this, I'm now able to donate a portion of my monthly income to a different charity every month. I'm learning self-development and I love it! I'm becoming a better person, more giving and confident. I love this better version of myself!" she exclaims.

Although she was active with the Clifton Park Moms Club, Wendy also started her own group – Amigas Latinas, a group of women from Spanish speaking countries that live in the Capital District. A social group that meets once a month, the women share their cultural traditions and support each other through their daily lives, providing a way to keep in touch with their roots. They are looking to expand the group to include more of the Capital District and have been in talks with other Latina leaders in the area to provide more activities and events to increase awareness of their different cultures. The group has mainly been growing through word of mouth and new friends are always welcome at the meetings. They also have a Facebook page and can add members from there.

Wendy has always loved traveling and has been able to watch the sunsets on many different beaches in the world, but is looking forward



to travelling with her children and taking them to Italy and Macchupicchu so they can learn about their parents' roots. Wendy has been happy to keep her family traditions alive in multiple ways. "My mother is my inspiration in everything I do. She was a great person who always put her family first. I'm happy to be able to pass on many of her traditions to my children. She is alive in my children's memories because we talk about her almost every day. She was shy and at times lonely because she did not have many friends. I'm on a mission to be surrounded by friends and love meeting new people every day. I find it fascinating learning about different people and their stories. So many of them inspire me to be a better person."

Wendy has also learned through her experiences that it is important to follow your heart and believe in yourself. It is what has brought her success so far and allowed her to live her life on her own terms. "I learned that if you believe in something you should follow your instinct and forget about the negative opinion of people. That's why I never say no to any opportunities. I'm open-minded and learn the facts in order to make a smart decision."

If you're interested in joining Amigas Latinas, or want to hear more about Wendy's business ventures, feel free to email her at wcorsetti@gmail.com. ■

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