

A Gem of a Role Model

Gilda Galdo, the administrative assistant for education at the Women's Circle, is a gem of a role model whose background helps her understand the women who come to the WC for help.

Born and raised in the Philippines, she had married a Japanese engineer and lived in Japan for 10 years. Because she did not know Japanese, but knew English, she offered to teach ESOL on Mondays and attended classes to learn Japanese on Fridays at the community center in Orawa City.

In 2000, Gilda, pregnant with her third child Airin, divorced her husband because of cultural differences and brought her children to Boynton Beach to be with her sister.

She had no money and no car, so she rode a bike to work cleaning houses until she found a job as an administrative assistant at JFK Hospital. Meanwhile, she earned an MBA in Global Management at Phoenix University.

In 2009, she was laid off, and she came to the Women's Circle for help. Again she volunteered to teach ESOL.

Gilda says she understands what it is like to live in a country where you do not know the language and she knows what it is like to be poor because she has been there. Being poor is "a humbling experience," she says.

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They are following her example by working and attending Palm Beach State College. The son Tommy, 22, is studying aviation, daughter Hiroshi, 20, is studying nursing. Airin, her youngest, is now 9 years old.

We've Moved!!!

The Women's Circle has moved into their new home at 912 S.E. Fourth St., Boynton Beach, Fl. 33435. Their new telephone number is (561) 244-7627. Fax is (561) 244-7629.

Website: www.women'scirclehome.com

This is an article from the Summer 2010 newsletter of The Women's Circle in Boynton Beach, Florida.