



Armando Camacho and his grandfather, Anselmo Figueroa

Serving the whole community

Regions Hospital has provided life-saving care for Armando Camacho and his family for more than 40 years. That experience inspired him to join the hospital's board of directors and influenced his role as a community leader and president of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation.

Armando's grandparents, Anselmo and Ramona Figueroa, came to the United States from Puerto Rico when he was six years old. His uncle was a migrant worker in Minnesota and recommended that his family move north to take advantage of the many job opportunities.

"He didn't mention anything about the weather, of course," Armando said.

Shortly after his family arrived and settled on St. Paul's west side, Armando became seriously ill and needed to have his appendix removed. The Figueras did not have health insurance, but they were welcomed at Regions, then called Ramsey Medical Center. "I didn't speak English and my grandparents spoke very little, but they navigated the system and we were treated with dignity and respect," Armando said.

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Armando's grandparents, Anselmo and Ramona Figueroa

Through other healthcare challenges Armando's family continued to experience Regions Hospital's commitment to providing equitable and compassionate care. "When I was in college, I had kidney stone surgery at Regions. I only had insurance through the county, so I experienced that safety net again. I went from a young kid with no choice of where I was taken, to now, as an adult, choosing to be taken to Regions," Armando said.

Armando has a deep appreciation for the hospital's commitment to all people in need. "I've seen health systems select who they want to serve. Regions has never done that. They've always had their doors open to everyone, regardless of language barrier, income level, gender identity or illness. That meant a lot when my family didn't have a choice."

Throughout his career in social service organizations, Armando has observed the impact that Regions has on our community. "When I joined the Amherst Wilder Foundation as president in 2020, I discovered our longstanding relationship with Regions Hospital.

Regions is the main care provider for the clients we serve across all our programs: housing, early childhood development center, the Meals on Wheels program, and our mental health clinic."

Armando believes that Regions is a unifier when it comes to identifying and solving health inequities in our communities. "Regions hasn't been afraid to discuss those inequities in its own system and in healthcare overall. The leadership knows that healthcare needs to be designed around patients' needs – not just in a medical sense, but in a cultural sense as well."

His personal and professional experiences inspired Armando to support Regions financially. "I know my dollars help provide much-needed support to residents of the East Metro who, like my family, needed high-quality health care provided by an amazing staff. Thank you, Regions!"