

Manuel “Tico” and Margaret “Marge” Navarro Tico

Tico

Born: May 3, 1941, Mexico City, Mexico

High School: Culver Academy (Culver, Indiana)

College: Babson College (Massachusetts) bachelor’s degree in business administration, Minor in Operations Management

Marge

Born: May 14, 1940, in Asheville, North Carolina

High School: Thomas Jefferson in Richmond, Virginia

College: Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts bachelor’s in music history

Tico and Marge moved to Albuquerque in 1980 with his family from Connecticut to live a healthier life in a city where “you can ski in the morning and play tennis outside in the afternoon”. Tico and Marge’s dedication and countless hours have been the driving force behind the Duke City Marathon since 1984. Manuel has been the Race Director for every event and Margaret has been Secretary of the board, board member and overall Mom for all the volunteers through the years.

High School

- Tico - Personnel Lieutenant, Member of Blue Key Plus (A- average)
- Marge - Choral

College

- Tico - Founder of Varsity Soccer Team, Founder Sports Car Club, Member Swimming Team.

Professional

- **Tico worked for Revlon Cosmetics as VIP for Latin America.**
- 1976 Opened a small specialty running shoe (Sun Sports, Inc.) in order to promote running as a great sport and lifestyle. They wanted to increase and help the health conscientious New Mexican with a place to not only purchase running shoes and apparel but congregate and participate in running events.
- 1980 Thanksgiving Day organized his first race called “Turkey Day Fun Run” in Albuquerque.
- 1984 Because of the success of that event, they decided to try to organize the “Duke City Marathon” event Albuquerque that has gone on every year for 40 years. With

the blessing of the City and Mayor Harry Kinney, Tico and Marge worked hard to focus on the city landscapes for the running of the marathon eventually starting and finishing on the Harry Kinney Civic Plaza in downtown Albuquerque.

- He put together a group of runners in the community to help him and with the help of then mayor Harry Kinney they planned the “First Annual Duke City Marathon”. With the help of the city, they invited (and paid for) the “Duke and Duchess of Albuquerque” from Spain to come to the city to start the race. The original event started with approximately 1,000 runners in two three Races - 5K Fun Run, Half Marathon, Marathon.
- The Duke City Marathon has grown to over 5000 runners in 7 Races - 5K Run, 5K Walk, 10K Run, 10K Walk, Half Marathon, Relay Marathon, Marathon starting at 15 minutes from each other. All Races start and finish at Mayor Kinney Civic Plaza.
- Since 1984, the “Duke City Marathon” - the first Race in Albuquerque Certified by The Athletic Congress - has grown into one of the premier events in the state and the book end event for the city in October. Because of that Certification, the Duke City Marathon has been the only Boston Marathon Qualifier.
- As the state’s premiere running event, the Duke City Marathon is the largest and longest running marathon in the history of the state of New Mexico.
- A qualifier for the Boston Marathon, the Duke City Marathon attracts thousands of runners from all over the state and country.
- The Duke City Marathon also hosts a Marathon Relay, Half Marathon run/Walk, and 5k Run/Walk. The marathon is ranked as one of the top 25 marathons in the world.
- The event has seen Olympic athletes, medal winners, local celebrities, and many happy moments for local and visitor runners.
- The marathon has been recognized in National magazines and media.
- 1990 Member of the team from Albuquerque to cross the English Channel with Ashby Harper (the fastest Team Crossing that Summer)
- Has ran 4 marathons including New York Marathon (1984), College of the Southwest (Hobbs, NM), Sandia Crossing (1985, 1986, 1987) 28 miles.

Community

- they formed the DCM foundation to give proceeds from the race to local charities.
- The event has always given proceeds to many different local Non-Profits - NM Childrens Hospital, Boys and Girls Club of Central NM, Ronald McDonald House, New Mexico Cancer Center for several years starting in 1984.

Family

- Tico and Marge have been married since 1962.
- Children: Carlos Navarro, Rod Navarro, Victoria Navarro
- Grandchildren - Elias