

## **Steve Marino**

Steve Marino moved his young family from Cleveland, Ohio to Southwest Florida in 1980 to pursue his dream of starting an in-home air-conditioning and appliance service business. Initially operating the business from a back bedroom in their home, he was the technician and salesman, and his former wife, Sharon Marino, the dispatcher and bookkeeper. Through hard work, dedication and entrepreneurial spirit, the small family-owned business called Home-Tech continued to expand its customer base and success throughout Southwest Florida.

In 1996, Home-Tech became an employee-owned company, allowing its employees to share in the experience of true company ownership. Currently, Home-Tech is owned by 70 shareholders and has two locations with appliance and air conditioning showrooms, one in Fort Myers and one in Bradenton. Home-Tech continues to thrive partly due to the extensive training for technicians, an apprenticeship program designed to develop the skills of new technicians, as well as the recognizable dedication of the employee-owners. In 2016, Home-Tech celebrates 35 years with a total of 130 employees, serving customers in five counties from Marco Island to Manatee County. Today, Steve continues to lead Home-Tech as president and CEO, successfully growing the once “small family business” with one of his daughters, Sonya Sawyer, who serves as CFO.

Steve is honored to serve PACE Center for Girls, Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, Golisano Children’s Museum of Naples, the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, Ronald McDonald House of Southwest Florida and Habitat for Humanity. Home-Tech is also proud to have helped build 18 homes for Habitat for Humanity in Lee County over the past 10 years.

Steve earned All-Around winner as a celebrity dancer at the Red Cross StarStruck event in 2007, helped Home-Tech achieve recognition as the Horizon Council’s Industry Appreciation Award recipient in 2009, was named Philanthropist of the Year by Gulfshore Life in 2010 and was a nominee for the 2012 Distinguished Entrepreneur Award from Florida SBDC at Florida Gulf Coast University. In addition to serving his community, Steve enjoys spending time with his two daughters, Sonya and Melanie, and his five grandchildren.