BUSINESS of the week

paid advertisement

Doug Young assists a patient with his prosthetic leg.

While they primarily came to Sequim to run a business, Doug and Deni Young are embracing their new life on the North Olympic Peninsula from every angle.

Their second night in town they went to a Sequim High School basketball game.

The next week they bought fishing kayaks.

They're simply in love with the Northwest.

Doug graduated from the University of Washington, and in 1985 he opened Cornerstone Prosthetics and Orthotics in Everett.

Prosthetics, as many people know, involves replacing a full or partially missing limb.

Orthotics corrects musculoskeletal functions lost through physical impairments such as a stroke, diabetes or even a broken back.

Doug chose to study in these fields because it allowed him to work with his hands and, most importantly, remove barriers that were keeping people from doing what they most enjoyed.

The challenge of providing a prosthesis that allows someone to keep fishing the rivers for steelhead, or allows a barrel racer to still compete is very gratifying for Doug.

"I love learning about the whole person and then enabling them to pursue what they love to do," he says.

In one case he worked all night to provide a custom fracture brace that allowed a rodeo clown to work the PBR finals.

Doug has even lent a hand to a couple of four-legged friends — he designed a prosthesis for a horse, and one for a llama.

Cornerstone grew to have offices in Mount Vernon, Bellingham and Edmonds. In 1998 he sold the business and moved to California to care for a sister with breast cancer.

Doug continued to work as a prosthetics and orthotics practitioner in California for the next 10 years. All that time he and Deni missed the Northwest.

In the fall of 2009, Doug attended a conference in Seattle where Dave Hughes, present owner of Cornerstone and Doug's previous business partner, spoke with him about the need to have a presence on the Peninsula.

Prosthetic and orthotic care often involves frequent adjustments and the patients in the area needed quality care close to home.

Knowing they had something to offer, the Youngs happily moved back to Washington and opened the Sequim branch of Cornerstone on Feb. 1.

Interestingly, Doug is now working for the very same company he founded 25 years ago.

The Sequim office serves clients from Forks to Port Townsend, and Doug will come to clients' homes if needed.

The Youngs' two daughters and five grand kids don't live near Sequim, but Doug and Deni say they still feel right at home.

"There is a real welcoming feeling here," Doug says. "We are committed to the area and we're so glad to be making this our home."

Cornerstone is located right next to SARC and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by appointment.

Cornerstone Prosthetics & Orthotics

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CORNERSTONE

Prosthetics & Orthotics