Speaking Your Language

As the daughter of Salvadoran refugees, Patricia Greenway grew up understanding both the opportunities and struggles for those who immigrate to the U.S. to find their futures. It's a background that has served her well in over 15 years of work with Walton Gas and parent company Walton EMC.

"Georgia is a thriving state with so much diversity; people are moving here from all over the world to live and work," said Patricia, called Trish by her friends. "At Walton Gas, we welcome all – no matter where you're from."

Trish, a commercial account representative for Walton Gas, is one of several company employees who speak fluent English and Spanish. It's an in-demand skill at the company's Snellville office where she worked in customer service prior to moving to a sales position.

"There were many days when I had a long line of people who would purposely wait to transact business with a Spanish-speaking teller," she said. Gwinnett County, where her office is located, has one of the state's highest Hispanic populations. The U.S. Census Bureau reports that one in 10 Georgians is Hispanic.

Trish's bi-lingual skills are derived from growing up in a Spanish-speaking home while learning English in school. Her parents, Jose and Eva Acosta, came to the U.S. as refugees before she was born.

"My mom and dad were granted asylum to escape the war in El Salvador in the 1980s," she said. "They came here with nothing, but my father was entrepreneurial and started his own janitorial and landscaping businesses. My mother cleaned houses."

The Acostas' work ethic was passed on to their four children. Trish recalls using her English skills to help Jose prepare professional business proposals and marketing materials that helped the family company grow and prosper. The family still operates a commercial and residential landscaping company in Houston, Texas.

Her family's story inspires Trish to help others achieve their dreams. As part of the Walton Gas team, she's helping businesses throughout the state make smart decisions about their energy.

"If you do business with us at Walton Gas, you are family. It's how we treat everyone," she said. "We're going to always go the extra mile to help you succeed."

Sept. 15-Oct. 15 is National Hispanic Heritage Month



Trish joined the Walton family in 2008.



Walton Gas commercial account representative Trish Greenway, bottom left, enjoys celebrating the holidays with her extended family.

Caldo de Res

2-2.5 pounds chuck roast or beef stew meat, cut into desired size chunks

12 cups water

1–8 ounce can tomato

2-3 tablespoons beef or chicken flavor bouillon powder

1 teaspoon ground black pepper

3 teaspoons cumin

1 onion, cut into large chunks

1 whole garlic head

3 carrots, cut into preferred size chunks

3 celery stalks, cut into preferred size chunks

5-6 potatoes, cut into preferred size chunks

1 small bunch cilantro

2 zucchinis, cut into preferred size slices

3 corn cobs, cut into slices or use small cobs

1 small cabbage, cut into small wedges

Serve with additional cilantro, lime or hot sauce

NSTRUCTIONS

INGREDIENTS

Place water, tomato sauce, garlic, onion, bouillon, pepper and cumin in a large soup pot. Mix well and season broth to taste. Add meat. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to medium-low and cover. If foam appears on top of the broth, remove and discard as much as possible. Let simmer for 1.5–2 hours.

Discard the garlic head. Add cilantro, carrots, potatoes and celery. Raise heat to high. When the liquid begins to boil, lower heat to medium-low. Cover and continue cooking for 15–20 minutes, until tender.

Add corn, zucchinis and cabbage. Cook uncovered for another 10–15 minutes until the vegetables are cooked yet hold a little crunch.

Adjust the soup if necessary, adding salt or bouillon to taste.

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Submitted by Patricia Greenway of Walton Gas. Featured recipes are not independently tested, so we must depend on the accuracy of the cooks sending them. Always use safe food handling, preparation and cooking procedures from the recognized experts.

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Monroe

842 US Hwy. 78 NW

Snellville

3645 Lenora Church Rd.

Watkinsville

2061-D Hog Mountain Rd.

Jim Bottone

Vice President, Walton Energy & External Affairs

Ashlie Franklin

Commercial Accounts afranklin@waltongas.com

Sara Beddington Marketing Specialist

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