

SHORT BIOGRAPHY OF RUDY CICCARELLO



Shortly after his graduation from Rome's Dante Alighieri Liceo Classico, Rudy Ciccarello arrived in Boston in 1968 to pursue a diplomatic career as a trade analyst at the Italian Trade Commissioner, the commercial attaché to the Italian Consulate in Boston. During his seven year employment, he earned a B.A. at Boston University and, a few years later, he attended Northeastern University's School of Pharmacy where he was awarded a bachelor of science degree. From Boston he headed to Florida to a job as a registered consultant pharmacist at the Jack Eckerd Corporation.

In 1984 Rudy was asked to develop, implement and manage Eckerd's first Home Infusion Pharmacy, compounding and delivering life sustaining I.V. admixture products to homebound patients. The enormous success of this venture led Rodolfo to found in 1986 his own company, Florida Infusion Services, a combination I.V. Therapy Pharmacy, Joint Commission Accredited Home Health Nursing Agency, and nationwide distributor of pharmaceuticals. From a 15,000 dollars investment and a 1,000 square feet pharmacy in a strip mall, Rodolfo built the second largest national specialty pharmaceutical distributor in the U.S. with yearly sales exceeding 480 millions at the peak of its growth.

The great success of his company not only brought him numerous distinctions and awards, including being awarded the title of 1994 Florida Entrepreneur of the Year but also allowed him to pursue his collecting passion: the American Arts and Crafts Movement. From the early collecting days in 1997 to the summer of 2004 one of the largest collection of important examples of the Arts & Crafts Movement was assembled including furniture, tiles, pottery, metalwork fine and decorative arts. Soon the need to safeguard these art objects was recognized and the Two Red Roses Foundation was established and endowed with the large majority of the collection.

The Foundation has been charged with the tasks of continuing an aggressive acquisition program for rare and often unique art objects, restoring, preserving and exhibiting this important collection to foster public recognition and appreciation of the high quality craftsmanship and design philosophy of the period, 1890-1920. Recently the Two Red Roses Foundation formally announced plans for the construction of the Museum of the American Arts and Crafts Movement (MAACM), which will become the permanent home for the Foundation's comprehensive collection. The new museum is expected to open in 2017. The 110,000 square-foot building will be built by Alfonso Architects in Downtown St. Petersburg. The multi-story structure, flanked by a four-story 300-car parking garage, will include exhibition galleries, as well as additional spaces for special exhibitions and social events. Also planned are a small 100-seat auditorium, a library specializing in mid 20th century design and architecture, a museum cafe, a destination restaurant, gift shops, and bookstore.