

HOME *sweet* HOME

Second generation families, continuing the tradition of living and working in Orland Park.

Vision Source first opened its Orland Park doors in 1982. The family-owned eye doctor's office was originally housed on the second floor of the United Savings Bank building (now Chase Bank), located at 151st and LaGrange Road, before relocating to its current location at 9031 W. 151st Street.

A native of Chicago, owner Dr. Joseph DiGiorgio moved to Orland Park with his parents in 1976 and says he knew he was here to stay.

"This was the community I wanted to live and work in," DiGiorgio said. "It made sense to want to build in Orland Park."

Soon after he opened his eye care practice, DiGiorgio became active in the Orland Park Area Chamber of Commerce where he served one term as a board member. It was during this time he got to know members of the community, including Orland Park's then mayor, the late

Mayor Melvin Doogan and the late Village Trustee, William Vogel.

"The village was a lot smaller back then," DiGiorgio recalls. "I enjoyed the small community feel of Orland Days and getting to know Vogel. He was a very nice and warm man."

As a young doctor just starting out in Orland Park, DiGiorgio says the chamber introduced him to the "pillars of the community," who offered support as he grew his business.

In addition to working in Orland Park, DiGiorgio and his wife, Cathy, raised their family in the village. Their children, Stephanie & Joe, attended St. Michael Elementary School and Carl Sandburg High School.

By living and working in the community, DiGiorgio says he has built a bond with his patients, as they know him both as a doctor but also as a neighbor or friend. "It's rewarding to have second and third generations of patients," he said.

"Beyond the eye exam, it's rewarding to know they have confidence in you and are bringing their children or grandchildren here."

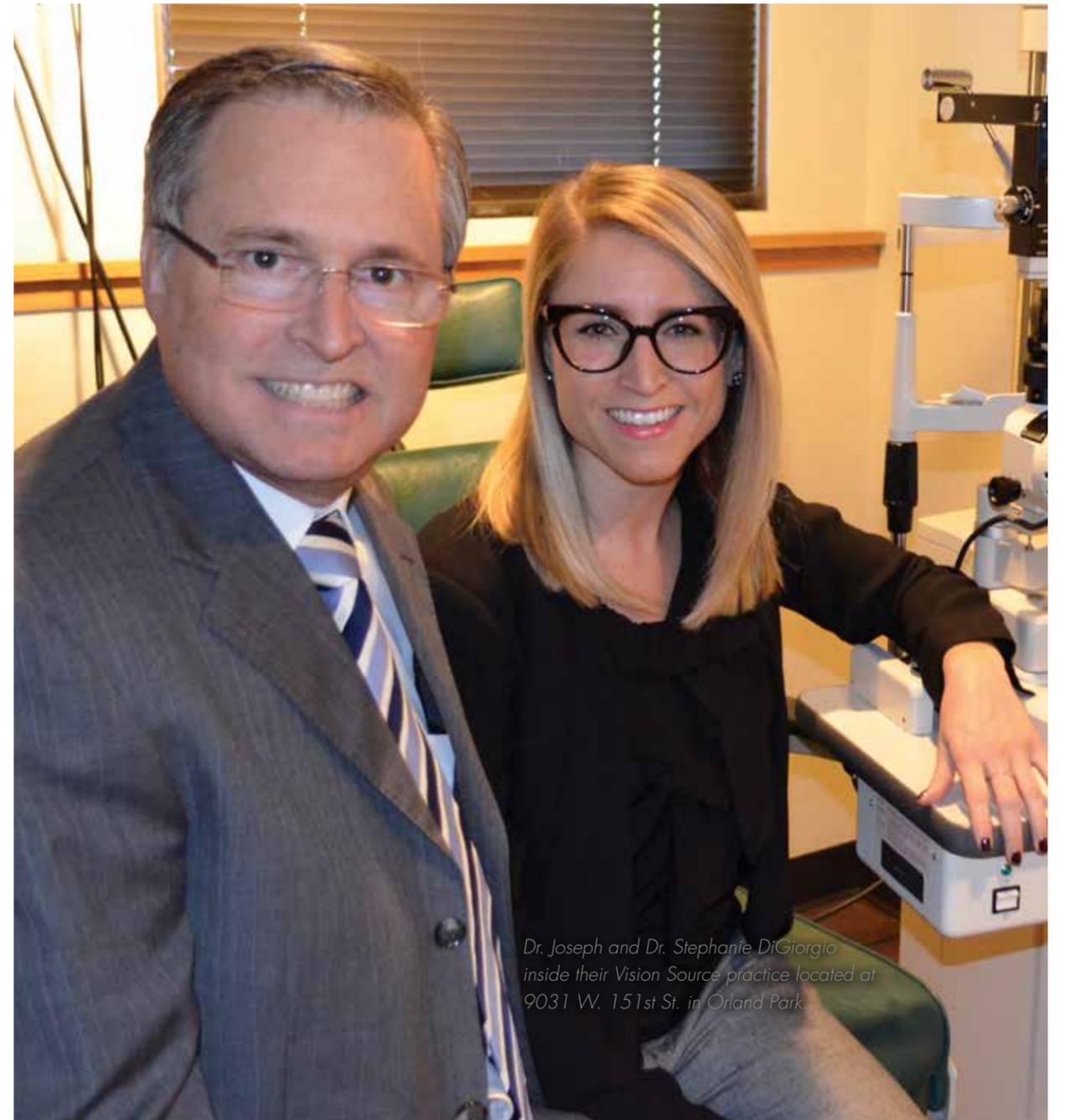
In June, that feeling of community is what led Stephanie DiGiorgio to join her dad at the family practice, working alongside him as the office's second optometrist.

The office was a familiar place for the recent graduate, as she grew up spending many Saturdays helping her dad by filing and doing other office duties. "I grew up here and to be able to work here now is a privilege," she said.

Both doctors shared an excitement for melding their specialties and being able to offer state of the art technologies to their patients.

"We collaborate on things and that's what's makes it fun," Stephanie added.

Dr. DiGiorgio senior says he never pushed his daughter to become an eye



Dr. Joseph and Dr. Stephanie DiGiorgio inside their Vision Source practice located at 9031 W. 151st St. in Orland Park.

doctor, but he is proud she has joined the practice. "We've always gotten along well and we work together nicely," he said. "She's brought back some new and great experiences and perspective to the office."

Stephanie graduated from Michael School in 2002 and Sandburg in

2006, before studying health science at the University of Iowa. Most recently, she graduated from Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

"She's had deep roots in Orland Park since kindergarten," her dad said. "She has her best friends from

St. Mike's still. I can see that she's deeply rewarded to have them come here for eye care."

"I knew I wanted to come back here and work in the family practice," Stephanie added. "Everyone in Orland Park has been so welcoming. It's a very rewarding feeling to come back."