



*Richard, Janna and Ruth Soler, 2014*

Richard and Ruth Soler have owned the TCBY Yogurt store at 104-B South Friendswood Drive in the Captain's Corner Shopping Center for over 23 years. The couple bought into the franchise in 1991 after being introduced to the TCBY Yogurt store in Galveston and really enjoying the store's yogurt. Richard said "After searching for a good location in Texas City,

La Marque, Dickinson, Clear Lake, Pearland, and Friendswood, we decided on Friendswood because it has great academic schools, good housing, friendly people, and easy access to all of the surrounding cities. The couple signed a five-year lease with S.C. Management to open their 1,200 square foot Friendswood TCBY and moved here later that year." Richard and Ruth reported, "In the beginning of the process, we could not find permanent financing and no one wanted to loan money to a new business. After meeting with Nigel Harrison and Theresa Jordan from First Community Bank in Friendswood, they assisted us in acquiring an SBA loan and the rest is history."

Richard and Ruth later purchased the TCBYs on Fuqua, NASA Road 1, and 61st Street in Galveston, but eventually sold the others and kept their first and favorite store in Friendswood which currently employs eight to ten persons and is managed by their daughter, Janna.

Both Richard and Ruth are proud BOIs, born on Galveston island, and have been entrepreneurs since Richard was 27 and Ruth was 24. Their first business was Mr. D's Donut Shop located at 61st Street in Galveston and later owned several other businesses including Mr. D's Poor Boys,

Al West and Son's Construction Company, and S&S Texaco Service Station. They have been married for over 47 years with two children, Jeffrey and Janna, five grandchildren, and one great grandchild. The Solers are long-time community supporters, being members of the Friendswood Chamber of Commerce for 23 years and for over ten years supporting the Friendswood Public Library's Summer Reading Program by donating coupons for every book read by kids participating in the program. They have also donated many goods and services to the Boy Scouts, City of Friendswood Parks and Recreation Department for their Concerts in the Park and Fourth of July events, Annual Crawfish Festival, Mary Queen Catholic Church Festival, and the Wranglerettes Spring Fling.

TCBY Friendswood has been updated and remodeled through the years to keep up with its approximately 54,600 customers who partake in delicious shakes, shivers, malts, smoothies, banana splits, chillers, cups, cones, and assorted pies and cakes. Richard said that the most popular customer favorites include white chocolate mousse and golden vanilla soft serve yogurt among adults, and rainbow cream and cotton candy hand scoop among kids. TCBY Yum!



*Richard, Janna and Ruth Soler, 1991*



*TCBY's ribbon-cutting in 1991*