

Joseph Gentilini is a native to Columbus, born here and lived here his entire life, so far. Joseph always wanted to be in a career that involved helping others. He earned his undergraduate degree in 1970 from the Ohio Dominican College (now University) in social welfare. He began his career in 1971 as a vocational rehabilitation counselor for the State of Ohio, helping persons with severe disabilities to become more independent with the goal of competitive employment if they were able. Going to school at night, he obtained his master's degree from The Ohio State University in 1974 in counseling and guidance. Joseph worked for another four years and then took an educational leave-of-absence for two years to complete his doctoral coursework in community counseling from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Returning to work for the state, he completed his dissertation at night, finally graduating in 1982 with his PhD. Joseph is an Ohio Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, a Licensed Social Worker, and a nationally Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. Joseph retired from his state employment in 2003. Joseph is a published author having written (both the 1st and 2nd edition) of the critically acclaimed autobiography, *Hounded by God*, a gay man's journey to self-acceptance, love and relationship.

Joseph and his husband Leo, they have been together for more than 40 years marrying in 2011, live in Upper Arlington and have a large, blended family consisting of three children and six grandchildren.