

# 60 SECONDS

## ROLAND PORTER

BORN IN 1936 • RAISED IN MINNESOTA • PROPOSED JUST FOUR MONTHS AFTER MEETING HIS WIFE • WORKED IN BANKING BEFORE BECOMING A DIVORCE ATTORNEY • FAN OF U OF I BASKETBALL

Roland Porter of Hinsdale has been married to the same woman for 52 years. So what does he know about divorce? Plenty.

A graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law, Porter enjoyed a 25-year career specializing in matrimonial law before retiring more than a decade ago.

"Retirement is the way God intended us to live," said Porter, who said he is enjoying every minute of his post-career life. "The freedom is unbelievable."

He who has two bits of advice for people seeking happiness in their later years: First, whether it's through participation or as a member of the audience, make the arts part of your life. Second, volunteer in your community.

The first part of Porter's retirement mantra is something he practiced long before closing the curtain on his law career. He and wife Karen are longtime, loyal fans of the Chicago Lyric Opera and Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

As for the second part, he came upon that somewhat by accident.

"We had a backyard party," Porter said, and when the guests had left, he was left with an abundance of leftover food. He took it to the local food pantry at HCS Family Services.

"The next thing I knew, I was volunteering. Two years later, I was chairman of the board," said Porter, who continues in that position today.

With so much affluence in the area, Porter said many underestimate how many people are in need. But the need is great, he said, not just for food, but also for financial help. When a family has to choose between groceries and heat, the children often go hungry.

"Youth hunger is a real problem," Porter said. "HCS gives



**Retirement comes** highly recommended by Hinsdale resident Roland Porter, who is spending his post-career years doing the things he enjoys most and giving back to the community he loves. (Jim Slonoff photo)

them food. We give them the right kind of food."

HCS will strive to feed even more people in the coming year, with the addition of a second food pantry, Porter said. To help make that happen, and to continue serving those in need, HCS needs financial support from the Hinsdale community. The pantry is stocked with donations from local grocery stores and through purchases from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, but the organization is left with administrative costs that need to be met.

The other organization that holds a piece of Porter's heart is the University of Illinois, where he served as president of the College of Law's Board of Visitors. Nearly 50 years after receiving his degree, Porter remains loyal to his alma mater, which honored him with the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2004, calling him "one of the college's most enthusiastic and effective advocates of academic excellence."

An active alum, Porter puts great value on education — something that earlier generations of his family didn't have the opportunity to enjoy.

"My father didn't graduate high school. I'm a doctor of law," Porter said. "That's America."

And while he has traveled to nearly every corner of the globe, Porter said he considers Hinsdale — the town he's called home for more than 20 years — one of the greatest places he's ever been.

But that doesn't mean he's finished exploring. He and Karen will embark on a Baltic cruise in July, and he said he has a few more bike trips in him, as well. A former president of the Elmhurst Bike Club, Porter was known to log thousands of miles a year on his bicycle. These days, his trips are a bit shorter, but he's still enjoying the ride.

— by Sandy Illian Bosch

## Community Open House

January 31, 2016 | 11:30 am – 2:30 pm  
1 Salt Creek Lane | Hinsdale

# BEGIN

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