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— Dana Reed-Kane

Dana Reed-Kane describes her career choice as a no-brainer.

The Tucson native and co-owner of Reed’s Compounding Pharmacy was interested in health care and she liked the idea of helping people. And it was, after all, in her family. Her father, grandfather and great-grandfather had all been pharmacists.

Still, she wanted to place her own indelible mark on the family’s tradition.

Her father Tom Reed had owned and operated Jones United Drug Co. since buying it from Walter Hafley in 1979.

Dana’s appreciation of her father’s profession grew in high school once she started working in the pharmacy. She was intrigued by a small aspect of his business called compounding, where a pharmacist takes the raw ingredients of a medication and tailors it for a patient. Compounding pharmacies can create the liquid version of a medication for those patients who can’t swallow pills, for example.

While earning her pharmacy degree, Dana worked as a hospital pharmacist, convinced at the time it would be the perfect combination of patient consultation and compounding. “I enjoyed it. I got to make things, but I never talked to patients,” she says. “I went to my dad and said, ‘maybe I should work in your store.’ He didn’t push me in any direction. He let me experience what I needed to.”

Dana left Tucson after pharmacy school, but returned to start her own pharmacy, one that would concentrate on compounding and women’s health.

Reed’s Compounding Pharmacy was founded by Tom and Dana in 1998. Tom continued to own and operate Jones until 2001, when he sold the business and joined his daughter.

Reed’s does not accept insurance, which covers the ingredients of a medication, but not the labor portion, which is the majority of the cost. Father and daughter say that the pharmacy provides a specialized service and in some cases the prescriptions are less than a patient’s co-pay.

REED’S COMPOUNDING PHARMACY

The pharmacy has expanded several times since it opened on East Speedway Boulevard and has 25 full- and part-time employees including Dana, Tom and pharmacist Courtney Miros. Dana specializes in women’s health and Tom in men’s health and developing topical medications. The pharmacy’s patients even include pets.

Tom says his experience at Reed’s renewed his love for his trade. He takes more time off these days to pursue his other passions, including cheering on the University of Arizona Wildcats. But he is still involved in the business and has taken a special interest in educating visiting pharmacy students and interns.

“That first day here was fantastic,” he says. “It was like night and day from my previous shop. I got to talk to my patients again. And I’ve enjoyed every minute.” ►



Dana Reed-Kane and her father Tom Reed.