

# Mothers in Business



## Ileana Rivera Successfully Manages R2 Comm & Motherhood

BY PEDRO VALLE JAVIER

Ileana Rivera and her husband Rubén Rodríguez are a strong team in both business and life. R2 Communications Group, one of the leading providers of cabling services on the island, started in 1992 as a joint venture between them. "My business partner is my husband, and that has its advantages," said Rivera. "We have divided the company's responsibilities, and that way we offer the best of ourselves in a professional manner." Currently, Rivera is the vice president and chief financial officer of R2 Comm.

Rivera and Rodríguez also share parental duties in the raising of their son, Ricardo Rubén. Becoming a mother wasn't easy for Rivera; she and her husband tried for 15 years to conceive a child. "I saw maternity as something impossible for me, and that filled me with sadness," she said. After many tries, Rivera discovered that she was pregnant. "You can't imagine how happy and grateful to God I was," she said. "Since then, my son and family life are the center of our lives."

The couple manages their family like they manage their business partnership. Rivera said



*Ileana Rivera and her son Ricardo Rubén*

they place the same passion and energy for business in their everyday life. The couple also has discovered new perspectives. "After 25

years of marriage, we have learned new ways to love and a new way to see life. Every day is a learning experience and offers a new start," she said. "Our family is the foundation of our happiness."

Her son has also been a part of her business success. According to Rivera, her hard work and dedication form a mirror in which her son can see himself. "Kids absorb all that we are as people, and we have to make an effort to be better. We as parents cannot forget that who we are and what we do shape that little person," Rivera said. Ricardo Rubén is also an integral part of the R2 Comm team. "When I do my job well, my son is there, and he is happy for us," she explained. "He has grown up in the business and has always been here beside us."

For Rivera, having a child is something very important for every woman. "My days are full of happiness and love. A child gives you the strength to achieve things and inspires you to become a better person," she said. "You have to enjoy every moment of their lives because they grow up so fast." Her biggest hope for the future is that the little person she loves the most will grow up to be an excellent human being. ■