

Tom Barry

Country of origin: Ireland

Circumstances of arrival: Tom's father was raised in Dublin, Ireland and was attending graduate school at Notre Dame in Indiana when he met Tom's Mother. The two eventually moved back to Ireland together and lived there for ten years, and Tom and his older sister were born during this time. After the university where he worked at shut down, Tom's father began to look for work and found it in Pennsylvania. The family moved to Meadville, Pennsylvania when Tom was around 3 years old. He has lived in the U.S. ever since and has visited Ireland several times both with his family and on his own. Tom and his partner arrived in Eugene while visiting a friend during a cross-country road trip, but liked it enough that they decided to stay.

Work/avocation: Music teacher. Tom teaches kids and adults the piano, bass, ukulele, drums, and other instruments.

It just seems like getting to know people is the key. A lot of people with preconceived notions (about people) don't have an example of that kind of person in their life. I think a lot of people have twisted ideas and aren't necessarily bad people. And if people get to know each other things would be a bit better. I know it doesn't solve everything, but ...

It's easy to have a stereotype if you are basing it off something you've seen on TV or something you've read, but if you get to know real people it's pretty clear that everyone's kind of the same.

Photographer: Herb Everett