



By 1998, it was decided to **sell Tri-M to a public company**. However, it was not for long. In Tom's own words, "After a couple years, **I did not like how the customers nor the employees were being treated** so I decide to do something about it. **I bought Tri-M back.**" Tom asked Jim Horn, a good friend and former Tri-M employee, to join Tom as co-owner of the company and take the position of CEO. This put a leadership succession plan in place. Today there are three owner partners; Jim Horn, Chris Peirson and Ron Bauguess, Tom's son-in law. Tom's children, Traci Musser Bauguess and Thomas H. Musser, continue to work at Tri-M, which currently has over 400 employees, 5 office locations and hundreds of long-term customer relationships.

With Jim Horn at the helm of The Tri-M Group, Tom knew that the business was in good hands. Tom made a concerted decision to more extensively **share his business savvy from the for-profit arena with the non-profit arena**.

In 2007, with his previous capital fund drive success under his belt, Tom agreed to Co-Chair another drive. Alongside John A. Featherman, III, Esq., they raised over \$30 million for the **Chester County Hospital Capital Campaign**. "Tom was epic," enthuses John. "He made sure the volunteer fundraisers deeply understood the need, by making sure we toured stellar hospitals. Our dreams became reality as the funds were secured." With funds raised in the Capital Campaign, the hospital added a new wing; consolidated all cardiovascular services into a single location; added 48 state-of-the-art patient rooms; added additional operating and procedural rooms; and increased efficiencies in the Emergency Department.



A year after the Hospital's new wing was completed, the **Kennett Area YMCA** came calling again. It had been two decades, and expansion was needed. Tom once again chaired the Kennett Area YMCA Capital Campaign, this time raising \$3 million.

Not only did Tom personally give back to the community, he also felt that **Tri-M should contribute**. Tri-M **encourages employees to volunteer their time and expertise; donates in-kind services; and contributes funds**. Jim Horn is clear: "It's always been the right thing for Tri-M to do."

Tri-M has **donated electrical installations** to numerous nonprofits, including the Kennett Area YMCA, Kennett Area Senior Center, and Unionville Quarterback Club Fitness Room. Tri-M erected the Unionville High School Baseball Scoreboard and donated testing equipment to Stroud Water Research Center.

Each year Tri-M sponsors students at the **PA Free Enterprise Week**, a unique summer program that offers high school students a challenging opportunity to see what it is like to run their own business.

Tri-M contributes employee volunteer time and corporate donations to scores of regional causes, focusing on **civic engagement, community health, youth, fitness, education and the environment**. This includes, but is not limited to:

- |  |                                  |                                   |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| American Cancer Society – Relay for Life | Kennett Education Foundation     | March of Dimes                    |
| Anson Nixon Park                         | Kennett Fire Company             | The Mushroom Festival             |
| Chester County Futures                   | Kennett Lions Club               | Officer Phil Child Safety Program |
| Clinton County Economic Partnership      | Kennett Run Charities            | PoMarLin Fire Company             |
| Downtown Lock Haven                      | Kennett High School After-Prom   | Special Olympics                  |
| The Garage Youth Center                  | La Comunidad Hispana             | THON Penn State                   |
| Historic Kennett Square                  | The Land Conservancy of Southern | Toys for Tots                     |
| KAU Little League                        | Chester County                   | Unionville Community Fair         |
| Kennett Area Community Services          | Longwood Fire Company            | Wayne Township Fire Company       |
| Kennett Area Senior Center               | Longwood Rotary Foundation       | YMCA                              |



In April 2016, Tom was inducted into the **Chester County Business Hall of Fame** by the Chester County Economic Development Council, recognizing Tom's **outstanding endeavors and achievements in the business community**.

In June 2016, Tom learned that the Community Foundation had chosen him as the **2016 Jordan Award winner, in recognition of his longstanding commitment to community philanthropy**.

In July 2016, after a brave battle with brain cancer, Tom passed away at his home surrounded by family.

J.M. Herr echoes the sentiments of fellow Jordan Award committee members: "Tom was a trusted friend and mentor to many. An energetic, insightful entrepreneur who developed a small business idea into an enormously successful one, **Tom cared about his family, his employees, his friends, his church, and the community.**"

Jeffrey Wright summed it up in Tom's memorial guestbook: "Tom was truly a **pillar of the community he served**. A quiet spoken man who spoke loudly by way of his **loving and generous actions...** Those who have enjoyed a mentoring relationship under Tom's guidance received a gift that was **priceless**. I can't help but think Tom is now focused on ensuring that Heaven is properly wired."

Tom Musser's legacy will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of the people he touched, for generations to come.

Ron & Traci Bauguess, Tom & Bonnie Musser & Tom H. Musser at Tri-M's 50th Anniversary Celebration

Tom Musser had one simple philosophy that served him well his entire life:

*Always be sure to help out the community where you live.*

~ Bonnie Musser

