



Diane Zwaan, in honor of Brian Zwaan

Chester County resident Brian C. Zwaan was dedicated to his family, his career, and his community.

As a child, with the loss of his father, Brian's family fell on hardship. Brian later came to realize that community educational programs aided his success despite the odds that were stacked against him. Brian, feeling thankful for and inspired by the power of education, wanted others to have that same opportunity.

Brian passionately assisted local educational programs, as a board member and champion donor. Villa Maria Academy, Malvern Preparatory School, St. Norbert School, Archbishop John Carroll High School and Cardinal John Foley School all benefited from his energy. In 2014, Brian was among four people honored by the Philadelphia Archdiocese whose "achievements and commitment to living a Catholic life best embody the spirit of Catholic education in the archdiocese."

A prominent banker, Brian served at Commonwealth, Firsttrust, and Citizens Banks before co-founding Penn Liberty Bank in 2004 and serving as president until 2016. When WSFS Bank acquired Penn Liberty, Brian served as Vice President and Director of Commercial Banking in Pennsylvania for WSFS.

In addition to being a well-respected banker and a philanthropic trailblazer in the Greater Philadelphia educational community, Brian was a loving husband to his wife Diane and a devoted father to their four children, Elizabeth, Matthew, Sarah and Margaret. One of Brian and Diane's goals as parents was to show their children the importance of community commitment.

Brian's daughter Elizabeth Zwaan Milne Esq. notes that he didn't miss a week of Mass, even bicycling every Sunday to St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church when the family vacationed in Sea Isle City. Recalling her father's oversized personality and signature belly laugh, she says, "He was constantly smiling, lighting up the room. He was a major practical joker, but yet, when he talked to you, he listened fully," she said. "He made you feel very important."



Brian suddenly and tragically passed in 2017, in a swimming accident in the waters off Sea Isle City.

Amidst grieving, the family focused on sustaining Brian's legacy. They created the Brian C. Zwaan Legacy Fund at the Chester County Community Foundation to continue Brian's lifelong philanthropic commitment to education.

As Brian loved golf, the Brian C. Zwaan Legacy Fund Golf Classic was a fitting fundraising event. In its first year, the Brian C. Zwaan Legacy Fund raised \$125,000 for the endowment and granted \$30,000 to five regional nonprofits that uphold the importance of education: Chester County Futures, Frankie's World Foundation, Hope Partnership for Education, Independence Mission Schools, and Let's Get Ready.

Diane is clear, "Propelling young minds forward was Brian's passion. We are committed to honoring his legacy of educational opportunity for all."

