



# In honor of Brian Zwaan

## PROPELLING YOUNG MINDS



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

After the loss of his father when Brian was a child, his family fell on hard times. Brian later realized community educational programs helped him succeed despite the odds against him. Inspired by the power of education, Brian wanted others to have that same opportunity.

Brian was passionate about helping local educa-

tion 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 for “achievements and commitment to living a Catholic life best embody[ing] the spirit of Catholic education.”

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 VP and Director of Commercial Banking.

In addition to being a well-respected banker and philanthropic trailblazer in the educational community, Brian was a loving husband to his wife Diane and 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 her father 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.

Yet, when he talked to you, he listened fully,” she said. “He made you feel very important.”

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

Amidst their grieving, the family focused on sustaining Brian’s legacy and created the Brian C. Zwaan Legacy Fund at the Chester County Community Foundation to continue his lifelong commitment to education.

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

Diane’s message and mission are clear, “Propelling young minds forward was Brian’s passion. We are committed to honoring his legacy of educational opportunity for all.”

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