

Giving Back

Mentoring is an art that requires one person to give another with their gifts of time, talent and energy. Opportunities to become a mentor are abundant, as is the need especially among our youth.

For the second year, I was privileged to participate in The Children's Glaucoma Foundation Golf Benefit. The event is masterfully chaired by former Boston Bruin leader and Stanley Cup Champion, John Buyck along with the active participation of many other Boston Bruin, Red Sox and Patriots Legends.

I especially love this event for several reasons. The greatest thrill comes from witnessing the genuine enthusiasm of my dear friend's Joe and Kathy Dusel's twelve-year-old son John. John is a success story in his courageous battle against Glaucoma.

The other reason comes in the form of listening to the stories of successful athletes who faced some of the toughest home environments, physical setbacks and emotional challenges along their successful life journey. These stories are not delivered from a podium, but rather in candid first hand conversations on the course, in the locker room or around the banquet dining tables.

The common thread through each life story is amazingly consistent. At critical points in their lives someone took the time, talent and energy to invest in their potential. Often at times when no one else did.

In another example I heard a popular Bruin legend being complimented by a business professional that played against the pro in a charity hockey event several years earlier. The individual shared appreciation of the pro's overall agility and said, "You guys [Bruins Alumni] ate us up." The former Stanley Cup Champion without hesitation smiled at the gentleman and replied, "If I went into your work environment, you would eat me up too."

No matter what we do, someone is out there just waiting to appreciate the gifts we can share with them via our time, talent and energy. My daughter Cailin often says, to have a good friend, you must be a good friend. It's probably a safe bet to say her theory works for mentoring as well.

Questions To Ponder:

- What gifts can't I help but give away?
- Who can benefit from my life experience?
- How soon can I start mentoring?

"Give a person a fish and they will eat for a day. Teach a person to fish and they will eat for the rest of their life."

Rick Forgay

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