

User Submission: Success With Honor

July 25, 2012

Like many supporters, we have struggled to come to terms with the events that have unfolded over the past several months and were particularly bothered by those wanting to define Penn State by the number of football wins or by recent negative perceptions. Any Penn Stater knows that “We Are” so much more than that. Penn Staters already understand that true success has nothing to do with influence or the amount of wealth or material goods you’ve accumulated. Rather, it’s about succeeding as a human being. It’s about giving back to the community and making a positive contribution to society. It’s about improving the lives of our children and their children and so on.

Joe Paterno’s memorial service echoed two common themes mentioned over and over again. They were “Success with Honor” and “Make an Impact.” Inspired by the memorial service, a group of alumni and supporters have established a non-profit organization that will build upon the “Success with Honor” motto. Our mission is to promote and support charitable endeavors as well as to inspire others to “Get in the Game.”

So far we have identified more than 40 charities. These charities have been founded or led by Penn State alumni, students, and fans. Some examples include:

- Uplifting Athletes (Scott Shirley)
- Penn’s Civilian Educational Organization (Rick Sayles)
- Operation Small Steps (Justin Kurpeikis)
- Rich Mauti Cancer Fund
- Happy Valley Uganda (Bill Spoor)
- Beyond 80 Ways (Bryant Johnson)
- Beyond the Locker (Tony Stewart)
- Gilmore/Henne Community Fund (John Gilmore)
- Project Mayhem (Aaron Maybin)
- BluArt Foundation (Matt Rice)
- Taliaferro Foundation
- Team Bryan Scott
- Catch 81 Foundation (OJ McDuffie)
- Curt Warner Autism Foundation

Their efforts extend from Pennsylvania throughout the United States and around the world. We know this is just the start of the wave. Many of these charities need services (accounting, web, legal, etc) and donations. We have started to serve some of these charities ourselves, but we know that by harnessing the resources and skills of the 580,000 Penn State alumni and millions of fans, we could make a huge impact.

We plan to create a comprehensive network that will allow us to serve individuals and charities alike. SWH will help individuals identify and connect with causes they’d like to volunteer their skills, time, and/or money to. Similarly, SWH will assist charities in finding individuals to meet their current needs. SWH will help facilitate communication, collaboration, and coordination of efforts among charitable organizations, allowing these organizations to work together to raise awareness and funds for their particular causes. Ultimately, we want to create a support system of professional services and resources to help existing and start-up charities flourish.

You will see more about our organization in the near future, but we would like to get your input on the following:

- What does being a Penn Stater mean to you?
- Would you be interested in learning more about our mission?
- Would you be willing to support and promote our mission? Or become part of our mission?
- What charities are you personally involved in?
- Do you have any suggestions for us?

We are available at your convenience to discuss any thoughts or perspectives you would like to share. Together we can make an impact.

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Are you making an impact? Get in the game at:

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Believe deep down in your heart that you’re destined to do great things. Joe Paterno

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Tags: Athletes, Charities, community, honor, <http://www.successwithhonor.us/>, Impact, Make, submission, success, SWH, Uplifting, User, With