Leading by Example

Thomas Cornu

Thomas Cornu considers himself a lucky man for being introduced to Judge Baker Children’s Center. In 1986, Tom was encouraged by a friend to visit “the best kept secret in Boston” and think about joining the Board of Trustees. Tom did just that. After spending some time with President Stanley Walzer, MD, and seeing the children at the Baker, Tom was so impressed and moved by the experience he joined the board.

Twenty-four years later, including one year as Chair of the Board, Tom continues to serve as a Trustee. Today, he is just as passionate about the Baker and the children it serves as he was in 1986, and he has demonstrated his dedication as a Trustee on numerous occasions. In 2004, Tom was instrumental in the move from the Longwood Medical Area to Parker Hill Avenue. He was on site almost daily watching the construction of the Baker’s new facility.

Over the years, Tom Cornu has supported every cause, event and program of the Baker. He stays involved with new developments and is touched by the progress and achievements of the children it nurtures and educates. The Baker is as a special place for Tom; a sanctuary for him to escape when he is in need of a smile.

Much has changed at Judge Baker Children’s Center since Tom became a member of the Board of Trustees, and many of these changes were made possible thanks to Tom and his expertise. Tom helped in the recruitment of John Weisz, Ph.D., ABPP, to be the new President and CEO; he worked to sell the old facility in the Longwood Medical Area and purchase the building that the Baker is now proud to call home. In 2008, the Baker honored Tom Cornu for his loyalty and support by naming the Manville School playing field, “Cornu Field.”

For Tom, being an active donor and friend is something he does willingly. The Baker could not have made such great advances without his support and guidance, and Tom has made it clear that he is not planning to leave us anytime soon. “This is one of the strongest boards I have seen both in quality and commitment,” said Tom. “Some of the nicest, smartest people I have met in my life are on this Board of Trustees; it’s a remarkable group.”

“When I first joined the board, the Baker facility was cramped and out of date. But, it wasn’t the building that brought me in, it was the passion and the children,” commented Tom. Moving to the new facility in 2004 opened up a whole new world for the Baker and allowed it to look as professional on the outside as it was on the inside.

“As a Trustee I feel lucky to be a part of all this,” said Tom. “Thank you to George Macomber for introducing me to the Baker.” Tom Cornu has been a friend and advocate for Judge Baker Children’s Center for decades. As an organization, the Baker feels privileged to have someone so passionate about helping children on its Board of Trustees. Thank you, Tom, for your continued support, dedication and friendship.