

Life brings challenges and disappointments.

We learn from those challenges and from our failures.

We learn we do it all on our own.

We had help, and we are grateful.

We learn that helping others brings us joy and satisfaction.

The pandemic brought us fear and isolation.

We learn the importance of Connections and Community.

We suffer when those are severed and lost.

Community is a place where we are valued, not based on our merit, wealth, or position,

Community is found where people have the conscience and confidence to be kind and to act out of love, rather than out of hate, jealousy, or indifference; and they are slow to take offense and willing to forgive rather than to judge and condemn.

When I left Petoskey 45 years ago, I understand or appreciate the value of the Connections and Community I was leaving behind.

been 45 years since my graduation, yet during those years I still felt Connected.

You too have made Real Connections here. You ARE part of this Community.

You are Alumni.

You are Timberwolves! And p0 1 87.384(a)-3(lo)8(u)-3(sy,)] TjG[02ls.300091()] TET@.2Cu6(k!wl)] TÆ

And the success of those endeavors was due to the combined efforts of all involved, whether small or large.

That is how his small deeds turned into great things that made a difference, an impact on the Community.

This school is One of those great things

our community to establish a college here in Northern Michigan.

My Dad was on the Feasibility Committee. He was ONE of 100 Members.

And he was ONE of 30 members on the Steering Committee.

In 1958 when the voters of Emmet County voted in favor of starting this college, my Dad was elected to the Board.

He served on that Board until 1980.

Since then, hundreds of individuals have shown selfless generosity by giving their time, talent, and finances to build, refine, and adapt this institution into a tremendous amenity for our small community.

My father had a big impact on my life. He was a man of strong faith and dedicated to his family, his employer, and his community.

He was never quick to judge or overreact. Instead, he was quick to consider the other side of a matter.

I admired his diligence, honesty, humility, and most of all, his ability to forgive.

I observed my father and tried to learn from his example. And I am still trying to do so.

- To listen more than you speak.
 - Ask questions to clarify misunderstandings.
 - Seek to understand others more than you seek to be understood.
 - Forgive, even when its hard
 - Expect more from yourself.
 - Continue to learn and improve your life skills
 - Strive to improve the lives of your fellow citizens.
 - Help in ways that you can. Be creative. Do your way. Pay it forward.
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My Dad had to overcome some challenges.

1. He grew up during the Great Depression.
2. Polio was rampant for the first 35 years of his life.
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4. He was the first in his family to earn a Certificate. (His brother was the first in the family to earn a college degree.)

Depression: The Great Depression was a devastating decade of unemployment, hunger, homelessness, and hardship for the whole country.

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When banks failed, people lost their savings and lost their farms, homes, and businesses when loans were foreclosed.

My Dad saw entire families working to survive

Neighbors helping neighbor.

And so, the community survived by coming to together.

Like *Timberwolves, the pack*

