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Tim Games '84

Joe Langella '83 (CT Alpha)

Dustin Klein '16

Jared Fenton '17

Tony Krumbhaar '12 '14 '16

ON THE WEB

A SigEp Photo is Worth a Thousand Words



Can't find the right words to share your SigEp story? Share your memories with a photo instead.

We have a ton of amazing photos from over the decades up on the SigEp alumni website. Check out your Brothers in their finest 80s attire, sporting their most stylish sideburns or...well, whatever's going on in these photos.

Find more photos at www.pennsigep.com by clicking on the "Photo Albums" tab and upload your best SigEp photos for inclusion in our next newsletter or e-letter, or email them to alumninews@affinityconnection.com.

www.PennSigEp.com

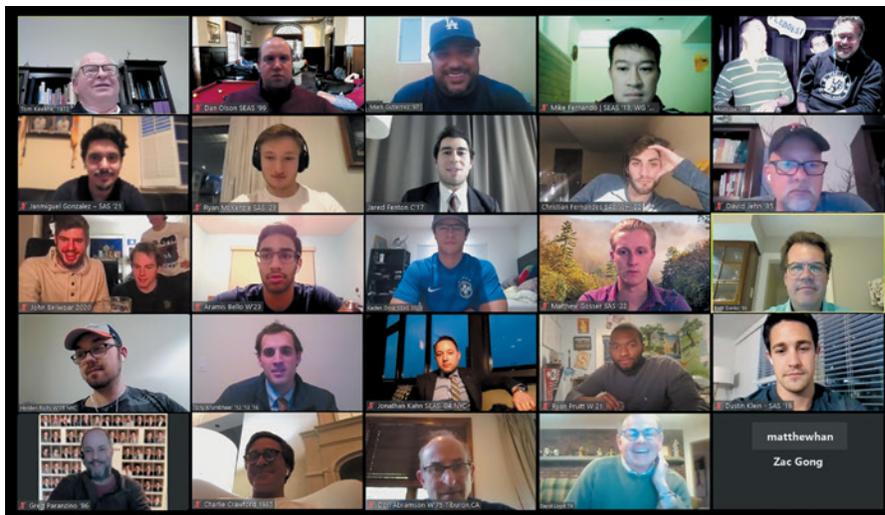
Summer 2020

The Delta Penn

Pennsylvania Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon University of Pennsylvania
Established 1904 / First Undergraduate Editor — Stuart R. Trottman Jr. '39

VIRTUAL RAYMOND C. MCCRON NYC DINNER

Brothers Take to Zoom to Help Flatten the Curve



Given the pandemic that has affected us all globally, and many of us have been remaining at home to help "flatten-the-curve" and maintain our #socialdistance, the Pennsylvania Delta Foundation decided since we were unable to have the 30th Annual Raymond C. McCron Dinner in NYC, we should have a virtual event bringing as many people together as we could. This being our first virtual event, we weren't sure what to expect, but given the limited messaging and short notice we had a great virtual event to celebrate our lifetime bond as Brothers. As you can see from the screenshot that was captured, we had a good number of alumni and undergraduates in attendance representing every decade from 1970 to present.

Members of the alumni board briefly kicked off the event, then we "passed the paddle" for about 30 minutes before breaking out into separate rooms for a little while to help give everyone a chance to reconnect. We brought everyone back together at the end to wrap up the night. We wound up spending 2 ½ hours online together, and I think we would have continued if drinks had not been in short supply for a few of us.

It was a great night and we were able to reach some alumni that normally would not have been able to join us for a NYC or Philly event, so it

was great to see some faces we hadn't seen in a while. This also convinced us that we should try to host virtual events more often (possibly getting some class/decade leads to help host). If you're interested in hosting an event, please reach out to Dan Olson (dolson04@gmail.com).

In one of the breakout rooms, **Don Abrahamson 'W75** shared some great ideas that the PA Delta Foundation will be reviewing in a future board meeting and also shared news about an effort his wife is leading to support parents who have found themselves homeschooling their children. Check our website (www.pennsigep.com) for more information.

Also, we learned that several alumni were looking for contact information for lost Brothers. Please feel free to reach out at any time to one of the Pennsylvania Delta Board members and we'll be happy to put our database to work.

It is great that we were able to take advantage of this terrible situation and make something positive out of it by reconnecting with old friends and making new connections!

PS – If you're a fan of Tik Tok we learned that **Charlie Crawford's, '85**, son Mitchell, is #TikTokFamous and Charlie asked Mitchell to make a quick appearance during the call to the delight of some of our younger alumni.

Embodying Sigma Phi Epsilon values isn't easy, but the support of our Brothers makes it possible

Approximately 116 years ago, a group of Brothers got together at the University of Pennsylvania and decided they wanted to pursue the highest levels of virtue, diligence and brotherly love. They felt well-equipped to cultivate, maintain and promote these core values, and you know what? They absolutely were. That's why, 116 years later, the Pennsylvania Delta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon at the University of Pennsylvania is still going strong and our vision remains to cultivate, maintain and promote our core values. That vision may even be what attracted you to the chapter.

Of course, you know now, that it was this vision that allowed the Sigma Phi Epsilon Delta Chapter to provide our Brothers with tremendous value in terms of enhancing the collegiate experience and then, after college, enhancing each Brother's life for years to come. The Delta fraternity house produces men of character: caring husbands, compassionate fathers and community leaders — men who embody those ideals of virtue, diligence and brotherly love.



That's why Greek life still matters, why we still need fraternities for our young men and why we still need engagement opportunities for our alumni of all ages. No matter the walk of life, personal goals, or background, qualities like virtue, diligence and brotherly love are what separate the men from the boys. They set us apart as Brothers and equip us to lead our communities and families with character.

But we can't do it alone.

We rely on our amazing volunteers and alumni members. Because of all of these

hard-working, dedicated individuals (not the University and not National!), who make a concentrated effort to embody the Sigma Phi Epsilon characteristics and keep the Brotherhood — actives and alumni both — accountable, we've been able to continuously turn out generations of leaders from a fraternity house that we proudly own and call home.

Our vision is still to become the pre-eminent collegiate leadership development organization — aligned, focused and living our core values — and to develop values-based leaders committed to the betterment of character, campus and community. Make sure you keep sight of this vision, whether you graduated five or fifty years ago. After all, we have big shoes to fill, as we strive to make that 1904 incoming class of Brothers proud.

Reconnect with your Brothers and the Sigma Phi Epsilon mission and values. It all starts with a visit to our chapter website, www.pennsigep.com.

WHY DO YOU GIVE?

Your SigEp Brothers Share Their Thoughts

If you've given to Sigma Phi Epsilon over the years, then you probably have several reasons why. Maybe giving back is part of what you consider the SigEp spirit — a part of the selflessness, philanthropy and camaraderie that you and your Brothers are known for. Maybe you give back as a show of thanks for all Sigma Phi Epsilon has given you over the years.

Whatever the reason you give, you're probably not alone. We asked a few Brothers why they choose to give. Here are their answers.

"Because my years at Sig Ep have left an indelible impression that have lasted to this day," says one Brother, when asked why he supports the SigEp annual fund. *"It was a well of support, friendship and camaraderie. In fact, I tried to finance an expansion of the House to add bedrooms and living space for the Brothers of the future, but the Penn administration made the expansion impossible to get approved."*

Another says, *"Penn Delta was incredibly important for me. The dorms were an option at the time, but they could not begin to match the collegial setting of a fraternity house, room and board inclusive. And Penn Delta had the added advantage of leadership from a group of fellows who valued scholarship and a fairly diverse brotherhood. It was a nurturing environment, for which I continue to be grateful."*

He goes on to say that SigEp offered a "structure" that went



unmatched. *"One, the physical structure of the house itself, having a shared space, being in close proximity with a roof over our heads... Two, the administrative/social structure that provided leadership we could participate in... Third, the national/historical structure of the Sig Ep fraternity institution itself, being linked in time and space to the extended brotherhood, and the traditions of Sigma Phi Epsilon."*

Yet another Brother references how much SigEp gave to him, and how he continues to give back in return.

*"I got more out of 4028 Walnut than I put in. I like to think that I was a benevolent n'er-do-well, but it's probably closer to the truth to say I was a terrible student, overly fond of having f**king fun and a chronic borrower of shirts. SigEp was a much-needed home and my brothers looked out for me — or at least tolerated me being a portable a**hole. Anyway, I remember things being tight in those days — not a huge alumni presence. However, the alums who were involved made damn sure the ship never sank and that the senior dinner always happened. So, when I finally got to a place where I could help out, I felt like I should..."*

Why do you give back? Let us know. Share your thoughts by visiting our website (www.pennsigep.com) and taking our alumni survey, or by emailing us at alumninews@affinityconnection.com.

Give Penn Delta One Lunch Per Month to Cover Annual Dues

Over the past several months we have been working alongside our partners who help manage our alumni database, newsletter, and annual campaigns to help make giving your annual alumni dues more convenient. Your support allows the Pennsylvania Delta Foundation to insure that Penn's undergraduate SigEp experience is contributory, relevant, and lasting and ensures that our alumni bond with over 1,000 living alumni remains strong.

We've spoken with many of our younger alumni and asked why they think donations from more recent classes have been lower than in previous years. They said because we don't offer payment by Venmo and the online donation system is not convenient enough. We asked some of our alumni from the '80s, '90s, '00s and recent graduates what thoughts they had on how to help

boost annual dues. Their answer was recurring payments. The suggestion was that they want to donate, but don't want to be bothered with it every year. They would rather just choose an annual amount and pay monthly recurring payments and simply be sent an email to continue the following year

We have taken all of this in and are very pleased to announce some changes in the ways you are able to make contributions for your annual dues.

If you are interested in making a one-time payment through Venmo each month/year, we've set up an account to make it easy to do that. Simply send your donation to [@SigmaPhiEpsilonPenn](https://www.instagram.com/SigmaPhiEpsilonPenn) through your Venmo app, and you're all set. We can also accept payments through PayPal at [paypal.me/padelta](https://www.paypal.me/padelta). Or if you'd prefer to make

automatic monthly payments toward an annual goal amount, we can set that up for you too. Simply visit the "Donate" page on our website (www.pennsigep.com) to set up recurring donations via PayPal. Scan this QR code to visit our "Donate" page, where you can set up recurring donations. From there, it's easy to redirect to Venmo or PayPal, or whatever your preferred method of payment is.



Wouldn't it be a neat idea if we could get all our living alumni to donate at least one lunch a month (\$10) back to the chapter to cover their alumni dues? Can we count on you for a lunch a month?

A MESSAGE FROM THE PA DELTA FOUNDATION

We are Brothers, and we are here for you

The following article is written by two members of the Pennsylvania Delta Foundation, Jared Fenton C'17, Executive Director of The Reflect Organization, a national mental wellness nonprofit organization, and Tony Krumbhaar '12, '13, '16, a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner at Main Line Health.

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Delta Foundation, we hope this issue of the *Delta Penn* finds you safe and healthy. If there is any way we can be of support, please do not hesitate to reach out. You can contact us at either of the following email addresses:

jared@reflecteffect.org (Jared Fenton)

tkrumbhaar@gmail.com (Tony Krumbhaar)

You also can check out a mental wellness resource guide at tinyurl.com/ReflectGuideDeltaPenn.

We are Brothers, and we are here for you.

During this time, both personally and professionally, people have expressed to us feelings of loneliness, disquietude, sadness, and fear. These feelings are real and legitimate. Globally, communities have been asked to shelter-in-place. Such measures have provided some relief for certain stressors (such as contracting the coronavirus), but they also have exacerbated others (such as the aforementioned feelings of loneliness).

It is for this reason that we find ourselves in a time and place where Brotherhood and

SigEp's cardinal principle of Brotherly Love are of the highest importance.

Soon after college campuses began calling for remote instruction, the national headquarters of Sigma Phi Epsilon turned to a PA Delta alumnus to film a video, to be broadcast to SigEps across the country, about strategies for maintaining wellness. (Editor's Note: This alumnus was Jared.) Just as is stated in the video, we encourage you to do the following:

Care for yourself. It is critical to prioritize your wellness. Care for yourself in whatever way best suits you. Further, if you hope to help others, it is essential that, like on an airplane, you "secure your own oxygen mask" first.

Stay connected. Try to connect with people who help you feel good. Because positive social connection is so important, organizations such as the World Health Organization now are encouraging the use of the term "physical distancing" instead of the term "social distancing."

Be that "one caring person." If you can be nonjudgmental, a dependable presence, and believe in a person to be the best version of themselves, then you can help someone to build resilience and break cycles of adversity. There are no specific words you have to say to be this "one caring person." It is just about trying your best. *Importantly, if any of you could use your "one caring person," we invite you to reach out to us.*

On the note of staying connected, we are grateful to PDF Vice President of Communications, **Dan Olson '99** (dolson04@gmail.com), for hosting a highly acclaimed Raymond C. McCron (Virtual) Dinner. Dozens of alumni and undergraduates from across the country, spanning each decade from 1970 - present, gathered by video to catch up and exchange stories. PDF President Brett Danko graciously emceed this program, which was so successful that popular demand led it to last an hour longer than expected.

Meanwhile, the undergraduates continue to inspire us. Our Chapter Counselor reports the actives have welcomed 25 new members into our Brotherhood. Though the manor is vacant for the remainder of the semester, the undergraduates are completing their schoolwork online and hosting virtual gatherings and chapter meetings to stay connected. (Editor's Note: *Tony is Chapter Counselor.*)

We are proud that SigEp PA Delta is providing people with key support during this time, and we are excited for you to read more about the goings-on of our chapter throughout the rest of this publication.

Stay safe, and stay healthy.

In wellness,
Jared and Tony

Saying farewell

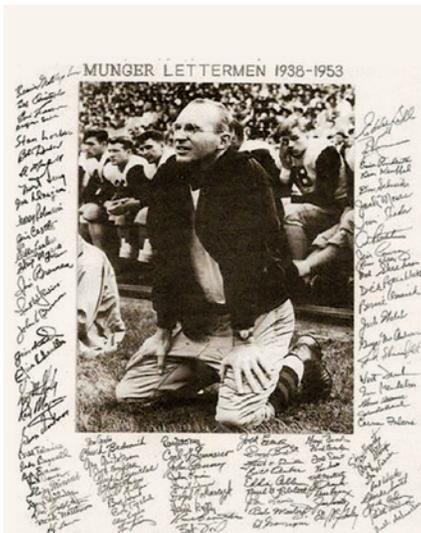
Remembering Stuart R. Trottmann Jr. C'39



We regret to inform you of the passing of Brother **Stuart R. Trottmann Jr. C'39** of Chesterfield, MO. Brother Trottmann was a retired vice president of public relations at Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. He served in the US Army during World War II. At Penn, he was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity and founding editor for the *Delta Penn*, SigEp's newsletter, see the bolded text on page 1 underneath the heading. Rest in Peace, Brother Trottmann.

Honoring a Legend: Ernie Prudente (Ed '51) 1927 – 2020

In the days when Penn football dominated the city of Philadelphia, **the Mungermen**, led by College Football Hall of Fame Coach George Munger, led the nation in attendance and dwarfed local professional teams in popularity, taking on the nation's best



football teams. For over six decades the men who played for George Munger any time from 1938 through 1953 have gathered one Saturday for a meal and a Quakers game and chance to tell tales.

One of these Mungermen greats was Sigma Phi Epsilon, Pennsylvania Delta Alumnus, **Ernest (Ernie) J. Prudente, Class of 1951** Penn School of Education.

Ernie was a three-sport star at Haverford High School, an offensive tackle at Penn, and a beloved coach at both Haverford and Swarthmore colleges for 44 years. The Ardmore native was at his best when he was swapping stories with former teammates or talking strategy with his players.

Ernie had a long list of athletic achievements: Winningest baseball coach in Swarthmore history, Member of Swarthmore,



Penn, Delaware County, and small college halls of fame. High school football all-star at Haverford and Friends Central. Semi-pro baseball player.

Prudente was born in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, and raised by his Italian immigrant parents; his mother lived to 100 without ever learning English. The youngest of five, he loved all sports as a child and played baseball, basketball, and football at Haverford High School. He also spent many afternoons cutting grass for his father's landscaping business.

Drafted before he could graduate, Prudente served in the U.S. Navy Reserve on the USS Oregon City. After he was discharged in 1946, he played football at Friends' Central School, prompted by an earlier conversation with Swarthmore All-American football player Wilmer Crowell, Class of 1905, a well-known area coach and referee.

"If it weren't for football, I'd never have gone to college," Prudente told *The Phoenix* in 1995. At the University of Pennsylvania, he earned a B.S. and an M.S. in education, graduating in 1951. He was also a standout athlete in basketball and football and was a lineman at a time when athletes played both ends of the field and Penn's team was one of the most celebrated in the country. Over the years, Prudente remained a fixture at Penn football games and helped organize his 65th class reunion.

Prudente continued to play sports after college, including for the semi-professional Main Line League and the Penn-Del League at the same time. He also worked behind the scenes to raise money, apply for field permits, and take care of the equipment and uniforms.

After Penn, Prudente coached basketball, baseball, and football at Haverford College for 17 years. In fall 1969, he came to Swarthmore as an associate professor of physical



education and to serve as head basketball and baseball coach and as a line coach for the football team.

On the hardwood, Prudente led the Garnet to its first winning season in 18 years and claimed eight

consecutive victories over rival Haverford. Perhaps more significant than the wins was the new outlook he was credited with bringing to the team. A coach's primary job, he believed, was to keep things fun. He also said there could be no fear of making mistakes, because "for every shot you miss, you're that much closer to making the next one."

Coupled with his quick-to-praise, slow-to-blame approach, Prudente inspired the

basketball team to regain their confidence and develop a winning attitude. In 12 seasons, he compiled 81 wins, the third-most in program history.

On the baseball diamond, his teams also enjoyed continual success. However, no squad was more accomplished than the 1985 team, which finished with a 27–6 record and made the program’s first appearance in the NCAA Tournament. For his efforts during that dream season, Prudente was named the Mid-Atlantic Conference Southern Division Baseball Coach of the Year.

Prudente inspired devotion among his players in other ways. At a time when players with long hair were often considered “discipline” problems, Prudente took the opposite view; although himself not a fan of beards and long hair, he said, “My rule is that if you can look in the mirror and like what you see, then it’s all right with me.”

Prudente also had a legendary sense of humor, regaling players with stories on bus trips, in the locker room, and during halftime pep talks.

The authors of the 1977 April Fools’ edition of *The Phoenix* returned the favor, “quoting” him saying he was leaving Swarthmore for national basketball powerhouse UCLA: “I really loved it here at Swarthmore, but I’ve always wanted to coach someone over 6’6”, so I’m movin’ on.”

Throughout his teams’ successes, Prudente refused to accept much credit, saying that “coaching is only about 10% of the game.” Instead, he took more pride in the success of Swarthmore graduates and rarely forgot a former player.

In fall 1981, Prudente volunteered to take on oversight of the intramural sports program, which had previously been run solely by students. To the core sports of softball, volleyball, and basketball, he added indoor and outdoor soccer, JV baseball, tennis, squash, miniature golf, water polo, and

badminton, depending on student interest and suggestions in any given year.

Under Prudente’s management, enrollment in intramural sports soared above 600 students, almost half of the student body at the time. He also opened participation up to faculty and staff members, prompting various academic and administrative departments to field teams. As a result, softball once had 28 teams; in 1988, volleyball was the most popular with 15, and in 1995, basketball was the largest with 18 teams.

Underpinning all his efforts was Prudente’s



of physical education. Upon his retirement from coaching baseball in 1995, he had amassed a program-best 216 wins. The *Phoenix* made clear his successor had “very large shoes to fill (size 14, in fact).”

Although no longer coaching, Prudente maintained a steady presence on campus, especially at spring baseball games. He is the eponym for the Athletics Department’s award, established when he retired, that is given annually to the male and female athletes who demonstrate the characteristics he exemplified: sportsmanship, love of the sport, and respect for their teammates.

In 2015, Prudente was inducted into the Garnet Athletics Hall of Fame. The press box at Clothier Baseball Field is also named in his honor; at the 2017 dedication ceremony, he and his wife Matilda cut the ribbon. Attendees received an Ernie Prudente baseball card.

“Swarthmore College is my second home,” Prudente said at the time. “I liked coaching there, and I think all colleges should be like Swarthmore.”

Over the years, Prudente often offered his approach to sports, which in 1971 took this form: “If you can’t have fun playing, you might as well not play at all.” His added corollary: “Winning is the most fun.”

“Ernie was the best storyteller of them all,” said Dick Rosenbleeth, 88, a defensive end on those old Quakers teams. “He was warm and friendly and fun. So, when we all got together, we’d always look around for Ernie.”

Ernest J. Prudente, 92, of Wallingford, died Tuesday, April 14, at Bryn Mawr Hospital after a stroke. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Matilda, their four children, and nine grandchildren. A celebration of his life will take place when it is safe to do so and we will share any news of planned celebrations as we learn of them.

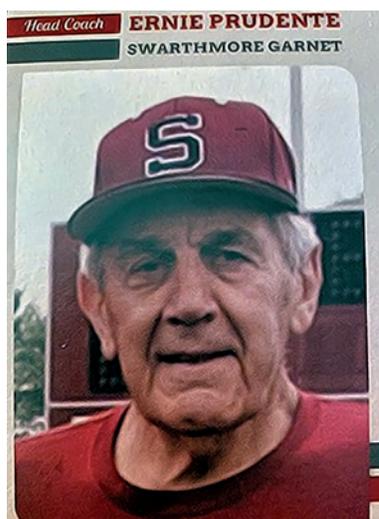
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belief that sports encouraged students to have fun and make friends, while providing an outlet from academic pressures and opportunities to develop leadership skills. Not surprisingly, *The Phoenix* dubbed him Ernie “I.M. Sport” Prudente.

By 1987, Prudente was exclusively coaching baseball and was a newly elected member of Penn’s Football Hall of Fame. That May, he was named to the Delaware County Sports Hall of Fame in recognition of his lifelong involvement in the area.

In 1992, Prudente became a full professor



WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

Alums Around the Country Share Their Latest Life Updates

We've been reaching out to Brothers for updates. Thanks to those of you who responded to the survey! If you have yet to respond, visit our alumni website at www.pennsigep.com for the survey link, or take a look at our latest e-letter. Here's what Brothers said when we asked them: "What's new with you?"

Jeffrey Rotwitt '72

Where to begin? Most importantly, my family is well and thriving after 46 years of marriage to Diane, who attended every Sig Ep party with me while I was at Penn, including after my undergraduate years when I was at Wharton Grad and Penn Law. Our four children and their spouses have given us nine grandchildren, with a 10th due in late September, who are our lives' delights. As to business, we just returned from Dubai and Abu Dhabi where we are looking to do a major real estate project, and we have two similar major projects planned starting later this year in China, where we visited twice in 2018. Our primary day-to-day endeavor is running a Hollywood-type movie studio in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, where we have hosted some of Hollywood's top stars, including Sly Stallone, Will Smith, Nicole Kidman and Bruce Willis. We also are doing real estate development projects in the Philadelphia region and do not see retirement even on the distant horizon, since I have the great pleasure of working with three of my children.

"...running a Hollywood-type movie studio in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, where we have hosted some of Hollywood's top stars, including Sly Stallone, Will Smith, Nicole Kidman and Bruce Willis."

James Carnahan '68

I have lost most of my family over the past six years — mom, dad, brother. It has been a challenging time. My daughter, Eliza, is a professional climber and translator living in the French Alps. We get together about once a year; I especially enjoy visiting her in France, naturally!

At 73, I am semi-retired from cabinet and furniture-making, still keeping a hand in as an architectural designer and draftsman, and working on several book projects — I suppose you would call them memoirs — comprising my photographs, drawings and journal text from several extended trips to Europe in the '80s and '90s. I'm immensely enjoying working with publishing and photo-editing software.

I will also be putting together a catalogue and biography for my artist dad, Kelly Carnahan.

Clarence Friend '96

Back in Chicago after three years in California. Three kids and been building a new company the past four years (Insellerate). Life is busy!

Jason Wood '93

Married again a few years ago and just had a son six months ago, Carter Rush Wood. Trying to turn the San Diego skyline into something interesting with my real estate development business, Cisterra Development.

ATX HOSPITAL MEALS

Brother Matt Silk '97 Supports Local Restaurants and Feeds Healthcare Heroes During COVID-19 Pandemic

My wife and I run a buy-n-hold residential real estate portfolio in Austin and I do angel investing in early stage tech companies. Once I had worked with each of my companies on plans to get through the next couple of quarters, we realized we had time and energy to burn. When I read a *Medium* article talking about the #SFHospital-meal program on March 25th (now re-branded as FrontlineFoods.org and doing AMAZING work), it was clear we needed to start our own program here in Austin. ATX Hospital Meals was born the next morning as a four-page Squarespace site and two Google forms. We thought we'd raise \$5-10K and deliver a few meals. We didn't realize how much momentum would get behind this mission.

We're now delivering on a daily basis



to three different St. David's HealthCare facilities and weekly to six ATCEMS first responder command stations. The number of volunteers, coordination with other local and national programs and outpouring of support from people far and wide has been inspiring. Probably because our mission is so simple and such a win-win: *Raise Money — Buy Meals*

From Local Restaurants — Deliver to Healthcare Workers. A few weeks into the program we partnered with a local 501c3, Austin Chinese-American Network, to enable ATX Hospital Meals to accept tax-exempt donations and company matches. We also launched a corporate giving program with our first partner, Flintco, committing \$15K as a matching sponsorship.

Program Stats (As of 5/1/20)

3261 MEALS DELIVERED
34 LOCAL ATX RESTAURANTS.
RAISED ALMOST \$72K

Please check out the program and pledge your support: www.ATXHospitalMeals.com

— Matt Silk '97