

## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We all lost a good friend and champion of Children when Darryl Simms, our Board Chair, passed away unexpectedly on December 9, 2009.

I had the privilege of knowing Darryl for over 25 years. First as a fellow administrator in the Christina School District in the mid 80's and again most recently with Connecting Generations.

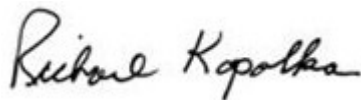
When I think about Darryl the word that most quickly comes to mind is GENTLEMAN. The definitions of Gentleman seem to have been written with Darryl in mind. He was a "noble man", "elevated by personal qualities" and "a man of good, courteous conduct". He believed in the good in all people and had a passion for working with our youth.

Darryl was a school Psychologist by training and served in that role when he first starting working in the Christina School District. He later served as an assistant principal at Christiana High School and then as Principal of the Douglas Alternative School in Elsmere. He also served in the capacity of Acting Principal of the Thomas Edison Charter School. He was a man of infinite patience and truly believed in finding the good in all people. At Darryl's Funeral Service the comment was made that Darryl never said a bad word about anyone. It was obvious from the number of nodding heads that the sentiment was shared by many.

When Darryl's health no longer allowed him to work full time, he continued his life's work of helping children reach their full potential through his volunteer work. In the last few years his leadership was immediately recognized by the board and staff of Connecting Generations. Darryl quickly went from a new board member to being the Vice Chair and then Board Chair. Darryl led by example, always keeping the end in mind. For Darryl, the end was "How can we promote the good in all people and help them reach their full potential"?

Darryl was one of the first facilitators of our newest program, Seasons of Respect, and he helped make improvements to the program and its curriculum after its first year. In his new role as Board Chair, Darryl helped hire a new Executive Director and became a strong advocate for all of our programs. Darryl personally invited many guests to our "Imagine A World" Information Sessions and loved talking about our organization and our programs.

Darryl was a lifelong mentor and his life's work fit naturally in the Mission of Connecting Generations. He was a friend and mentor to thousands of school children and adults whom had the privilege of knowing him. He will be missed!



Executive Director, Connecting Generations