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Ambler man helps raise money for Drexel University

By: Melissa Brooks, Staff Writer
05/30/2007



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Gus Carey of Ambler wants "everybody and anybody" to think about "philanprofit." He thinks - knows - it will make a huge difference, he said.

Carey, who grew up in Spring House, has managed A. Carey Co. LLC out of Ambler for four years. It's a word-of-mouth business that helps young companies use philanthropy as a key business strategy.

Ben and Jerry's ice cream, which is associated with many charitable organizations, is probably the best known example of the concept of embedding philanthropy into for-profit organizations, he said.

Helping companies give back to their community is something Carey is "pretty passionate about," he said. "It really is fun."

Carey said his company works with a number of organizations in the Philadelphia area, contingent upon the fact that they focus on the community they affect, he said.

Carey attended Germantown Academy before receiving an undergraduate degree in Asian studies from Amherst College and graduate and post-graduate degrees in management from Oxford University and Harvard University.

He was raised by the notion that "whatever you get is something you have to give back," he said. "It was hammered into my brain from the time I was pretty small, so I've been very lucky."

Carey was recently "drawn to the activist community focus" of Drexel University's School of Public Health, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a black tie Gala June 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the National Constitution Center.

Carey, who served on the planning committee for the event, called it a "great honor" to raise awareness for Drexel, which he is convinced will soon be the top school of public health in the country, he said.

"They get their fingers dirty," Carey said of the students who volunteer 30,000 hours of community service per year and of the school's partnerships with more than 300 organizations across Philadelphia to promote health in the city's neighborhoods.

The only public health school in the region, Drexel was formed by a group of academic public health professionals who imagined a school that focused on local and national public health issues.

Carey said he is "astounded by [Drexel's] range and what this 10-year-old school has been able to do."

His company's role is to help Drexel come up with ideas to "create links" and "raise awareness" in the community.

People involved in the school of public health "don't just say here are some great ideas," Carey said. "It's very rare to find an organization permeated with doers."

The gala will focus on children's safety and wellness, according to Dean Marla J. Gold. Geoffrey Canada, president and CEO of Harlem Children's Zone, will serve as keynote speaker.

The evening's entertainment includes singer Matt Duke, jazz vocalist Sherry Wilson Butler and a special appearance by the Philadelphia Boys Choir.

Carey said he's "very happy to help sponsor" the school because he knows any funding they receive will be "actively dealt with" in the Philadelphia area "to help people who really need it."

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"I know the community really respects and appreciates that," he said.

A. Carey Co. LLC's motto to encourage companies to think about the local community when making business decisions is something Carey said is good for all.

"To take whatever I've been given and try to give back," Carey said. "That's my goal. It will make a difference and that's what it's all about."

For more information on Drexel University School of Public Health and its 10th Anniversary Gala, visit <http://publichealth.drexel.edu> or call 215-762-4110.

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