

A Tribute to Bill Evans

We have gathered to remember a special person: a caring father, an educator, a community leader, and a dear friend.

Bill was a person you could count on for support, a person you could rely on to help during periods of difficulty or personal setback. He was compassionate, kind, and generous. He enjoyed being around people; and he derived energy from lively conversations and stories, often drawing laughter.

I met Bill more than 10 years ago. We connected quickly and realized that we shared a common goal to help others in need, especially children and the poor. Bill joined the Neighborhood Outreach Connection four years ago as a Director on NOC's Board and coordinator of NOC's programs in downtown Beaufort.

Bill was a real friend to NOC and to me. He provided leadership in establishing two NOC centers in downtown Beaufort (Parkview and Marsh Pointe). Throughout the past four years, I personally benefited from his support, expertise, and counsel. He played an important role in helping NOC move forward with its mission, both locally and outside Beaufort County.

The day before he passed away, Bill and I spoke about spending time later that week with the children at NOC's Marsh Pointe and Parkview centers, as they celebrated the successful completion of the fall semester. Bill wanted children to understand the importance of education and the difference it can make in their lives. This was Bill's trademark message, a message that will endure and benefit many young people.

As an educator Bill impacted many lives through dedicated teaching, mentoring and coaching of young teachers, and as an administrator. As chairman of the Board of Education of Beaufort County, he worked diligently to improve the quality of education in local public schools, and to ensure that the children were the winners of good education.

Bill was a role model as a community leader, serving in civic organizations, foundations, and church groups, and making a difference. He was a team player and always went the extra mile to achieve results to benefit others.

Our hearts are heavy today, but they are also filled with much gratitude for this loving and caring man.

Farewell dear friend. We will always remember you with fondness.

*Narendra P. Sharma, PhD.
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