

DETLEF SCHREMPF FOUNDATION LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

Totem Report August 9, 2017

By Pete DeLaunay



The Detlef Schrempf Foundation has contributed \$20M to some 140 charities with special fundraising events over the past 24 years. A power forward for the UW Huskies in the early eighties and several NBA teams thereafter (including the Seattle Sonics), upon retirement Detlef and Mari Schrempf wanted to give back to the community in meaningful ways, supporting organizations that reflect their family's struggles with disability, and their aspirations to help other families in similar situations.

An accomplished track & field athlete herself, Mari Schrempf met Detlef in 1982, married soon after and started a family. "We didn't know it at birth but our son grew to have special needs that only specialized care could provide," Mari told Rotarians. "We walked the path of all special therapies for our son, finding Boyer Children's Center as the place where our son could get the care he needed."

As Boyer Children's Center marks its 75th anniversary, Mike Stewart, center executive director came to the podium to describe their important work, serving some 1,100 families each year by providing early intervention for children with developmental disabilities. "Early childhood intervention works as those with special needs get care that helps them overcome life's struggles," he said. "Insurance will limit visits to our center so the support we received from Detlef and Mari has enabled us to create an uncompensated care fund to support families regardless of their financial situation."

A short video about the work of Boyer Children's Center was shown to highlight one family's journey. The video conveyed how the center treats every child like family, delivering a wide range of therapeutic development, providing families hope for their disabled child.

President Mark then invited Detlef and Mari to the stage where he conducted a wide ranging interview about their life together and philanthropy. Both were born and raised in Germany, drawn together by their respective sport and mutual caring for those in need. "We formed the foundation for our son and the care he received at Boyer





Children's Center from the outset," Mari said. "We have a personal relationship now with many sponsors that share the same philosophy and that stands out the most," Detlef continued.

Detlef, who now works as director of business development with Coldstream Wealth Management, says the foundation will continue, but not with high profile events. "The stage for special fundraising events is tougher as we are competing against 'new

blood' (younger star athletes)," he said, "but we will keep funding alive with online donations and partnering with sponsors who have grown into lifelong relationships."

President Mark opened the meeting with Sten Crissey's 'inspiration for the day' about the value of Rotary, followed by Arnie Ness on the trumpet accompanied by Ken Grant on the piano for the day's anthem. New members Cody Fritz, Seattle Warehousing Co., and Timmy Pham, Eagle Genius web development, were introduced and welcomed to the club.

