Darrell Stremler Dedication

Ed Carne Remarks

I'd like to echo Mark's words of welcome to Judy, to the Stremler family and all of our honored guests, physicians and staff. Today in addition to installing a commemorative stone in the center of the atrium, we are also unveiling timelines of Darrell's life and work with DMG along the walls of the atrium. These displays include quotes from people speaking about their experiences with Darrell. As you read these quotes one thing becomes abundantly clear- Darrell had a large and lasting influence on all those who knew, worked with and loved him. It is our hope that people who visit this building will take the time to learn about Darrell and his important role both as a leader for DMG but also as a significant influence for positive change in peoples' lives.

I think that in this celebrity-crazy world, we sometimes lose focus on the importance of everyday people's actions on the lives of others. We think that you have to be famous and hold a position of great power to make a meaningful impact. This isn't true- each one of us has the ability and the obligation to make the world better through our own example. As Mahatma Ghandi, once said, "You have to be the change you wish to see in the world." Darrell really understood this and didn't talk so much about what was important as he lived it through what he did every day.

Darrell had a tremendous force of personality. He used this often to unite people to work for a common goal. Although there were many reasons why people were drawn to this wonderful man I would like to mention three qualities that people seem to remember about Darrell.

- Darrell believed in the goodness of people and in their ability to rise to the occasion. He had a tremendous gift for optimism that was truly contagious! Darrell embodied the "audacity of hope" before it became famous! I remember how he would look at you and smile that tremendous smile and say, "I've got great news!" This was usually followed by him telling you about a big challenge that you were going to have to work hard to overcome and some how, because he had faith in you, you did. By the way Darrell used this technique when he told me that I was going to have over thirty managers reporting directly to me in the new DuPage Medical Group!
- Darrell also had a wonderful wit and a great sense of humor. What other CEO would star, fully costumed, for Administration Christmas Party skits in such leading roles as the Grinch, Gilliagan (yes that Gilligan from the Island), and the Wizard of Oz? He understood the importance of laughter and having fun in bringing people together.

- Darrell was an excellent communicator and it goes without saying that he was well spoken. However his true gift was in his ability to listen. He had the capacity to block out other concerns and focus solely on the conversation at hand. Whether you were the CEO of a hospital or a DMG staff member, Darrell really heard what you had to say.

I worked with Darrell for over 7 years and I witnessed countless examples of how Darrell's ability to believe the best in people, to enjoy a joke (even if it was on him) and to hear even bad news with grace touched us and made us better for knowing him. I believe we have had the rare opportunity to know a truly extraordinary man. His example should inspire us to make a difference in the lives of the people we live with, work with and serve.

And now please take the time to enjoy some refreshments and see our new building.