

CONNECTIONS REMEMBERS...

On February 25, 2010, Connections Community Support Programs, Inc. lost two beloved employees, Chris Sturfels and Mike Kriner. Mike and Chris were involved in a fatal car accident while they were working. We have since learned that the person who caused the accident was suffering from the very mental health and substance abuse problems that Chris and Mike devoted their lives to identifying and treating. We know that they would be forgiving, and that they both believed that addiction can and should be treated. We want to echo that message today.

Chris and Mike left behind their wives—Kingsley Simendinger and Carmen Kriner—and their children—Beck Sturfels and Felicia, Liam and Daniel Kriner. They also left behind their Connections family, including the many people whom they personally helped to overcome addictions and mental health problems. Connections misses these two special individuals and shares with you the contributions they made to their clients, their co-workers, their families and their community.



CHRIS STURMFELS was one of the backbones of Connections. Chris joined Connections in 2001 as a counselor in the organization's outpatient department. He built Connections' practices in both Middletown and Smyrna, where there had previously been no substance abuse services, before becoming the Director of Alcohol and Other Drug Services. Chris was a certified alcohol and drug counselor, but he was a renaissance man with many interests. The most important thing in Chris's life was his family—his wife Kingsley Simendinger and his son, Beck. Chris was a humble man who did not promote himself, but he was one of the best things that ever happened to Connections. Chris held native American spiritual beliefs, and in his tradition, he has 'moved on.' But Connections will never forget him.



MIKE KRINER worked for more than 20 years in Delaware in both the mental health and substance abuse fields. He had most recently been the Executive Director of the Gateway Foundation's residential substance abuse treatment facility in Delaware City before joining Connections in January 2010, as Director of Clinical Services. Mike was a licensed clinical social worker, a licensed chemical dependency professional, a certified alcohol and drug counselor, and a certified trainer of motivational interviewing. He was on the faculty of Delaware State University in the social work program. Mike was a family man, devoted to his wife Carmen and their three children, Felicia, Liam and Daniel. Mike always had a smile and a welcoming way, and we miss him for the friend he was to many of us over the years.

CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS

For those wishing to make contributions and donations to the families, there are three funds that have been set up:

The Beck Sturfels Educational Trust

Contributions and donations can be made payable to The Beck Sturfels Educational Trust, c/o PNC Bank, 460 West Main Street, Middletown, DE 19709.

Michael T. Kriner Education Fund (for his children)

Contributions and donations can be made to the Michael T. Kriner Education Fund at any WSFS Bank.

Christopher Sturfels and Michael Kriner Memorial Fund

This fund has been established by Connections to support the education of the children of Chris and Mike; to provide education scholarships for those wanting to study to become counselors or social workers in the substance abuse and mental health field; and to provide support toward the programs and program areas of Connections with which Chris and Mike worked. Contributions and donations can be made payable to the Christopher Sturfels and Michael Kriner Memorial Fund, c/o Delaware Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1636, Wilmington, DE 19899. Donations can also be made online at www.delcf.org, by clicking the Make a Donation button and entering the name of the memorial fund.



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WITH THE RIGHT CONNECTIONS**