

IN MEMORIAM



It is with great regret and sadness that Connections announces the loss of two beloved staff members, Mike Kriner and Chris Sturmfels. Mike and Chris were involved in a fatal car accident on February 25, 2010, while they were working. Our hearts go out to the family members of Mike and Chris, and they are in our thoughts and prayers. Connections would like to recognize these two special individuals and share with you the contributions they made in the social services sector and in the world of mental health and substance use treatment.



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. Connections had high hopes for what Mike would be able to do for the organization, its staff and clients, and we are devastated by his loss and the loss of such great potential.

Connections announces the establishment of the Christopher Sturmfels and Michael Kriner Memorial Fund. To make a contribution please make checks payable to the Christopher Sturmfels 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. For questions, please contact Rebekah C. Robertson at (302) 230-9127.



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