
CELEBRATE 2010 ToP CHAMPIONS

Waid Johnson | Paint The Elephant | Posthumously



Waid Johnson had over 20 years of experience facilitating groups around the world. Waid was active in our ToP Community of Practice, enthusiastically contributing to the problem solving and dialogue therein. He was in the Certification track, and an active promoter of ToP Methods in every environment. He held a Masters degree in Experiential Education from the University of Minnesota. His generosity and outgoing personality shone through in his facilitation style.

Waid's mother, Corky, describes Waid's 6th grade in the International School in Moshe, Tanzania. "Waid played with the African kids who hung around the Y. They played soccer constantly, but with no soccer ball used anything they could kick. These kids had nothing.

The Christmas we returned to the US, Waid and his brother, Bjorn, came to us and said, "Mom and Dad, we don't need anything. Take the money you would spend on us for Christmas, and send it back to Tanzania for the kids there. This is what we did for as long as we had a specific person we could send the money to and know it would be used properly.

We returned to Moshi, Tanzania August of 2007. Waid went to a sporting goods store and got 2 dozen soccer balls. He also went on the net to the alums returning to the reunion and told them to bring soccer balls. He then arranged for the local kids to come to the school, with a "coach" and play a game. He then gave the "team" a soccer ball and told them that if it got broken, to bring it back and it would be replaced. {Not if it got lost, because they would all get "lost" immediately} That program is still going and now some of the ISM alumni are going to keep it going as a memorial to Waid.

With a unique capacity to win people over, Waid was able to tackle the most challenging situations with a gentle, humorous tone. This positive communication style built on the energy in any group, leading to excited discoveries and lasting action.

Waid was service oriented, working for the YMCA, working as a counselor for at risk children, and in the last few years focusing his skills and energy on facilitating team building and planning in non-profit organizations using ToP Methods. His company name "Paint the Elephant" reflected the humor, exuberance and enthusiasm he brought to life and to his work.