

GENTLEMEN OF
GOAL
MAGAZINE

Fashion and Philanthropy



Tony Slezak

Managing Partner/Financial Planner

Co- Founder



Years in Current Position?

33 years as Managing Partner/Financial Planner, SHC Wealth Management and 2 years as Co-Founder of GOAL Magazine

Education?

Bachelor of Science in Education, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Hometown? Latrobe, Pa **Currently Reside?** Latrobe, Pa

Who has been most influential to you throughout your career?

Definitely my wife Sheri. She allowed me to work as many hours as needed and never had a problem with any of my business decisions while keeping our family moving forward.

If you had to give a younger person in your field one piece of advice, what would it be?

Start somewhere you can get proper training. I started day one straight out of college and never had someone I could go to for guidance in my profession. I had to grow up fast.

To what event, decision, person or other do you attribute your success to the most?

When my son Michael was born with autism, my wife had an excellent job with great pay and carried our health benefits. Due to the medical attention our son needed, we realized she wasn't going to be able to continue working. She quit her job in November of 1996 when he was less than a year old. I decided I really need to get to work! My income doubled in 1997.

What cause, or purpose are you most motivated to support and why?

Employing the handicapped. We spend a lot of time discussing specific disabilities but what we miss is that we have a lack of public support for disabled people that are trying to live on their own. Due to certain disabilities, handicapped individuals can't seem to secure a good job or services into their adult years when all they truly want is to be self-sufficient.

To whom do you credit your philanthropic heart?

When you grow up in a blue collar limited income background, you realize being philanthropic is not an option. It isn't even a thought because you are just thinking how to get by in life. So, when you grow up and attain some financial success, you appreciate the ability to help others.

Give an example of you stepping outside your comfort zone with regards to your appearance and/or attire?

Several years back, you could look inside my closet and all I had were white button down collared shirts and a navy and grey pin striped suit. Now, colors are accepted in the professional sector and are not looked upon as flashy. I enjoy wearing colored shirts, and funky-patterned socks at the office. I do still however wear limited jewelry...My wedding ring, college ring and watch.

Name one stylish trend from your childhood that you would bring back to "in style" if you could?

Where it was unacceptable to NOT be dressed up for a date. Being a father of two daughters, I feel if a man came to the door dressed up to take my daughter on a date, it would show respect for her.

Most impactful words ever said to you and who said them?

In 1988 I was going to quit the financial planning business. My father came home from working in the machine shop and he said to me "what do people I work with do that makes them more successful than you?" I said "nothing". He took out his greasy tablet and wrote down names of people that came into the plant that he felt would do a favor for him and these people would talk to you about investing with you. That is the day I never looked back.