



Investing in the FUTURE

Finding Friendship and Support in Unexpected Places

By Walter Stucker, Class of 1981

Trinity Valley has always held a special place in my heart. It is a special place with a sense of community and involvement. No one displayed his caring for the TVS community like Stephen “Pista” Seleny.

When walking the halls of TVS, students could always feel Pista’s presence. From pinching my cheeks (hard!) to an occasional (in my case, more than occasional) admonishment, to many a trip to the “Black Hole of Calcutta,” I always knew Pista was there looking over me and guiding me. His involvement in my life then and later helped me in ways that I could never have contemplated as a student at TVS.

I graduated in 1981 and did what most did: went off to school, started a career, found the love of my life and got married. TVS and Pista were always in the back of my mind. Yes, I made it a point to come back for the occasional homecoming and kept in touch with TVS classmates and friends, but life went forward.

Rekindling a Friendship

In the early 1990s, I wanted to get involved with the school again. That is when, as an adult, I got to know Pista on a different level. I worked with him as a member of the Board of Trustees and as the alumni president. Through long hours of meetings, sometimes grueling work and the occasional conflict, he became more than a mentor and a teacher; Pista became a friend.

My wife, Ronda, and I joined the Stephen Seleny Society in 1999. At the time, our daughter, Elizabeth, was 2, and we were pregnant with our son. The future looked bright, and after serving in various

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The Stucker Family, *from left*, Elizabeth, Max, Ronda and Walter



We would love to count you as a member of the Stephen Seleny Society. Let us know if we can provide you with information about how you can join this group of visionaries who are committed to the future of TVS. Contact Margaret Kramer today at kramerm@trinityvalleyschool.org or 817.321.0100 with any questions you have about ways to support our future.

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capacities at Trinity Valley and seeing it through adult eyes, I felt more certain than ever that I wanted to leave a legacy to this wonderful school. My friendship with Pista made this decision a no-brainer.

The year we joined, I could have never imagined how Pista's friendship would become so crucial in the future.

An Unexpected Detour

In 2005, in a very bizarre and extraordinary way, Pista's and my lives came together again. I had begun TVS in 1971 in the third grade. Pista's daughter, Monica (Moni), was in my class that year. She had been diagnosed with cancer the previous year and passed away during our third-grade year. In 2005, my daughter, Elizabeth, was a bubbling, vivacious second-grader at TVS.

In October of that year, our family was given the news that Elizabeth had been diagnosed with a relatively rare and often fatal form of cancer called neuroblastoma. She was diagnosed at the same age as Moni had been, more than 30 years apart. Pista heard about Elizabeth and was there immediately, offering support and guidance. He and his wife, Kato, visited with Ronda and me. They talked to us about their experiences through Moni's illness, what they did and

what they wished they had done. They taught us how to handle each other and family during the illness as well as how to be a family again after a child dies. They taught us how to begin the healing process as well as how to go on with life.

Elizabeth has been in remission for more than seven years and is a junior at TVS. On her desk at home is an edelweiss flower, a gift from Pista at her ninth birthday party. The symbolic meaning of an edelweiss flower is daring, courage and noble purity. When Pista gave Elizabeth this gift, we all believed that it was probably going to be her last birthday. Pista wanted her to know how brave he thought she was after watching her through this ordeal.

Looking Ahead

Pista and Kato's guidance and friendship helped immensely during Elizabeth's illness. It showed us again the involvement and dedication to community of this remarkable man. I could not have known when I started third grade that this man would have such a profound impact on my life.

As a member of the Stephen Seleny Society, I know that the school will continue to have an impact on future generations of students whose lives will be touched in countless ways by their TVS connections.

3 Steps to Get You Started

1 Learn more about how you can achieve a lasting legacy through an endowment gift in our helpful brochure *The Best Present for Anyone on Your List*. Just complete and return the enclosed survey to receive your copy.

2 Spend some time exploring our mission and how you can help at www.trinityvalleyschool.org.

3 Reach out with any questions or concerns you might have. You can reach Margaret Kramer at kramerm@trinityvalleyschool.org or 817.321.0100.



TVS

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30-SECOND SURVEY

Please complete and return in the enclosed envelope today.



	Yes	Not at this time
I would like to receive a copy of the FREE guide <i>The Best Present for Anyone on Your List.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

I would like more information on how to support Trinity Valley School after my lifetime.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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I have included a gift to TVS in my will or other estate plans.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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I would <i>consider</i> including a gift to TVS in my will or other estate plans.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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