

Alan Hassenfeld: A Life Of Impact

By David W. Schner, President & Executive Editor, LEADERS Magazine

As I reflect on my thirty-five years with LEADERS and the thousands of interviews I have had the opportunity to conduct, it has provided me with a unique perspective on the concept of leadership and the characteristics that define a leader. While leadership is often measured by financial success, title, and power, I have found that true leadership is defined by impact, meaning, and making a difference. By this definition, the world has lost one of its truly great leaders – Alan Hassenfeld.

I had the pleasure of profiling Alan in LEADERS numerous times over the years, and while his wisdom, insight, and global views were always impressive, it was his commitment to helping others, deep relationships, and philanthropic work that stood out. Whether it was through his involvement with the Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone, Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute at Brown University, Bamboo School in Thailand, just a few of the many projects he worked on with the Hassenfeld



Alan Hassenfeld

Family Foundation, Alan touched countless lives and truly made a difference.

Every person has their own definition of “success.” I had the opportunity to ask Alan how he defines success during one of our interviews, and his answer speaks volumes about the way he lived his life.

“Success for me is making a difference and being a catalyst for positive good. It is so important that we all try to envision the future, and to try and make it better than what we are faced with right now. I so enjoy visiting a school and seeing a smile on a kid's face, and it is important to take the time to appreciate what you are doing. I am doing philanthropy

because it is the right thing to do if you are fortunate enough to be able to help other people in need. It is simple – for me, when my heart smiles, that is success.”

The world has lost a true leader, but Alan's legacy of giving and making a difference lives on through the countless people he has touched and the many lives he has impacted. •