

Paul Baker always had kind words and something to give

As any new family moving into a community with school-aged children, one of the first things you look into are the summer activities that your community offers. Our son loved baseball and excelled at it. My husband and I searched for a baseball league and found the South Lyon Baseball Association. After my son played in this league for a year, we found several other boys that excelled in baseball and with other parents decided to start the Lyon Township Travel Baseball Team. That meant finding fields, raising money and getting into a travel league.

That was the first opportunity of many that I had the pleasure of

meeting Paul Baker... "raising money" for a new team. I had ventured to many businesses throughout Lyon Township and South Lyon trying to promote this new travel baseball team. I really wasn't experienced in raising money, but I was hoping that I could convince businesses to support a travel baseball team for our youth. I figured that the most businesses would be asked to donate for many other purposes, so I had a plan. If I only asked for \$25 from each business, maybe that wouldn't be too much to ask, and I could accomplish our budget to get the team started.

Armed with excitement, enthusiasm and a budget for the boys' team, I enter the South Lyon Hotel to obtain a donation. I had never been in the South Lyon Hotel and I was very nervous, but I was determined to make this happen for the boys. There was a

pleasant lady behind the bar and asked to speak to the owner about obtaining a donation. She motioned to go up the stairs and that the owner was Paul Baker and he was up there with his auditor. I really thought to myself this would not be a good time to ask for money, especially since he didn't know me from Adam and that I would be interrupting his meeting with someone way more important than me and my cause. But she assured me that I could talk to him and up the stairs I went.

Remember this was in 1988 and the upstairs to the hotel was just finished off and the entire upstairs was empty. I had to go around the corner and sitting at a card table was Paul and this distinguished looking man.

Truly my knees were shaking. I said "Hello" and Paul said "Hi, Hi, Hi, Hi, come on over" in Paul's typical fast talk, that I think so fondly of today. The table, which was the only furniture in the place was looking over the

back parking lot and their were papers spread out all over. My mind was saying this is not a good time to ask for money, but I was standing in front of the table and it was too late to go back downstairs.

I apologized for the interruption, and explained that the lady behind the bar had assured me that I should come upstairs. Paul gave me his undivided attention, as if I really was somebody. I gave him my whole spiel, which he let me completely finish.

Then Paul said "you only want \$25!" He looked over to his auditor and said, "Can you believe she is only asking for \$25, hum only \$25." (Doesn't that just sound like Paul).

I repeated that I was only seeking \$25 from each business that would want to help get this team on the field. He asked me again "This is for kids, right? Kids right!" Yep! "Well that's not enough. You are sure it's for kids, right." I said "Yes!"

"Go downstairs and tell the

lady behind the bar to give you \$100 cash out of the cash register."

My eyes got so big, I was in shock. I only asked for \$25.

I just kept saying "thank you so much, thank you so much," and as I turned he yelled, "Come back and tell me how the team is doing, don't forget tell me how the team is doing, and what was your name?" I yelled back "Patty" and of course he yelled back "Patty, Patty, Patty."

I was so excited, I was singing all the way down the stairs and promptly proceeded to the bar and sure enough, I told the lady what Paul had said and she opened that cash register and handed me a \$100 bill. I started to write her a receipt and she said no Paul won't turn that in if it is for kids. I could hardly believe my ears. Paul Baker didn't know me from Adam and I walked out of the South Lyon Hotel with a \$100 donation. What a fantastic person! It really was all about kids and trust.

My family and I started patron-

"Thank you Paul for all your kindness, there will never be anyone like you again!"

izing the South Lyon Hotel back then and have continued to do so up to today. I have had the pleasure of working with Paul on many occasions for many different reasons for down the road I had the fortune to become the Lyon Township Treasurer. Thank you Paul for all your kindness, there will never be anyone like you again! I will miss you calling my name Patty, Patty, Patty. God must need you up in heaven. Good Bye my friend.

Patricia Carcone
Lyon Township

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This trip is all-inclusive - which means everything - a 7-day stay at the San Souci Resort in Jamaica which includes: All meals, snacks, beverages, unlimited use of sports facilities, (including golf, water sports, spa services, recreational activities) hotel taxes and airport transfers with no tipping allowed. Round trip air travel provided by Funjet.

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Be sure to submit your photo prior to Aug. 31, 2005 to be eligible to win.

Vacation Photo Contest

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DEADLINE: AUGUST 30th, 2005