

HONORING A SON'S DREAM

Foulkeways is proud to recognize the generous leadership gift from Gus and Rita Beck designated to The Greening Fund. The Greening Fund assists with financial support for the Foulkeways Green Technology Plan developed by a comprehensive, long-range plan based on a three-year feasibility study, outlining actions to help us continue incorporating green technologies and energy-efficient, earth-friendly building designs. This plan enables Foulkeways to provide a campus with minimal impact on our environment. We are extremely grateful for their significant contribution to help our community reduce its carbon footprint.

Pleased with the care they have always received, Gus feels the best part of living at Foulkeways is, "the congeniality of staff and the treatment Rita and I receive here." He goes on to say, "I had the intention of contacting Administration about our gift. When I learned of their new activities involving the "greening" of Foulkeways, it gave me the incentive to contribute in memory of my son."

Gus and Rita raised two very successful sons, Edward (Ed) and Andrew (Andy). Ed is an educational psychologist and Andy was an environmentalist. Unfortunately, Andy's life was taken too soon as a result of his studies. The Beck's hope that by sharing his story, others will be led to support the Foulkeways Green Technology Plan.

Andy dedicated much of his time to studying the effects of toxins in the environment. He was a Biology major at Fairleigh Dickinson University and eventually pursued his Ph.D. at New York University (NYU) School of Environmental Medicine. During his time at NYU, he participated in an extensive study to determine the effects of hot water (thermal pollution) and possible radiation exposure from the Indian Point Power Plant into the Hudson River. Andy was the lead researcher for the thermal pollution study and it meant spending many hours standing in the Hudson River each day to test the fish, water and plants. Studying the number of fish killed from the pollution and radiation was his top priority and the project goal was to convince the Indian Point Power Plant to safely cool the waters in order to reduce the number of fish kills.

When Andy earned his Ph.D. in Environmentalism, he worked at The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) studying various toxic effects on fish. Gus remembers, "He had huge fish tanks in his basement to determine the effects of contamination in fish. They were lined up along the wall."

In Andy's second year at Penn, he met his family for dinner one night in New York. He took Gus aside and showed him an egg-sized lesion on his leg. Gus knew that the lesion needed attention so they immediately had it evaluated. Unfortunately, the first biopsy was unable to identify the lesion. Gus then took Andy to a friend of his, the Head of Dermatology at NYU. He recalls, "There were 20 scientists around the table, looking into microscopes. They were all



– Andy Beck at work in the Hudson River

connected to the doctor's so everyone could each see what he was looking at. It was here that the doctor determined the lesion was cancerous." It was highly likely that because of his work in the Hudson River, Andy developed a rare form of cancer, an immunologic disease. Due to its rarity, there had been little research conducted and it was not curable. Within a year of being diagnosed Andy passed away. He left behind a wife and infant daughter. Because of this tragic situation, Gus and Rita wanted to keep Andy's memory alive by supporting the Foulkeways Green Technology Plan.

Andy's spirit lives on through Gus and his passionate interest in the environment. Gus worked for many years with the Environmental Health Committee of the American College of Chest Physicians and says, "I have a lot of experience working with patients who have lung disease due to environmental factors—coal miners lung disease, asbestos and diseases due to toxins produced by stored grain." The Becks also support programs at the Jewish Community Center of Tenafly, New Jersey to educate the preschool children about the environment and how to be ecologically aware.

Gus and Rita's extended family is very touched to learn about their generosity to Foulkeways, knowing this is exactly how Andy would want to be remembered. The entire Beck family is grateful to have the opportunity to complement Andy's life-long goals with this significant contribution and hope to inspire others to support Foulkeways Green Technology Plan. Even though Andy's life was short lived, he had dreams of a carbon-free, pollution-free world. Gus also wants to thank his son, Ed, who he says is, "extremely helpful to us. He takes care of all the communication with Foulkeways."

Doug Tweddale, CEO, shares, "This gift is especially meaningful. It supports Foulkeways on the road to becoming carbon neutral and expresses the true philanthropic belief of our community. I am proud to witness this generosity which helps safeguard 'The Spirit of Foulkeways' legacy."