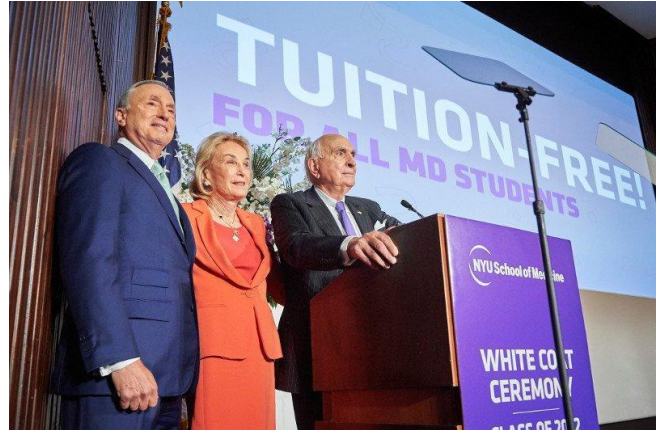


“SOMEBODY DID SOMETHING FOR ME, NOW I NEED TO DO SOMETHING FOR SOMEBODY”

By Tom Gullen - Contrary to what my wife and daughters may think, “must-see TV” is not The Bachelor or The Voice. It happens Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m. and it is called Sixty Minutes.

On this Sunday it was a story of a dream. The story goes something like this. There’s a college called NYU. Great place. There is a man named Ken Langone, who grew up in a very working class environment and who attended NYU and later made a lot of money helping start up Home Depot. Langone approached the Dean of the Medical School, Dr. Robert Grossman and asked him; “what do you want to do?” Grossman responded; “I would like it to be free to attend NYU Medical School.”



That was ten years ago. Last year, in front of every student of NYU’s Medical School, Langone announced that it would be [free to attend Medical School at NYU](#). The school had raised \$450,000,000 to fund free tuition in perpetuity.

And so Sixty Minute’s Leslie Stahl asks Langone why?

His answer just stuck in my head. “Because we want these students to think, **“Somebody did something for me, now I need to do something for somebody.”**”

And so I thought, of course, about hockey. What if somebody hadn’t done something for me, what would I have become? I think back and how after five years of bugging my parents to let me play hockey, they finally said yes at age 12. I would finally be a Deerfield Falcon. I then remember the call from my first Coach, Mr. Carman, “We are building a rink at Trinity College. I expect you to be there every Saturday and Sunday at 9:00am.”

So I went. We laid pipe. We moved wheel barrels of sand. We put up boards. We were put to work and treated like adults. Little did I realize a decade later I would be running an ice rink. What if Mr. Carman had not told us to be there? What if my interest in hockey was not cultivated by a man that made sure I always had a ride to the rink, or help with equipment? **What if he had not done something for me?**

We never know when a coach, a mentor, or another parent will make a difference in a child’s life. Some of my favorite evaluations that I have read came from parents who wrote about the difference a House League coach made in their child’s life. Coaches who took the time to help a youngster who was a little nervous about playing, or who didn’t maybe

have the skills but a coach took the time to help make them better. Coaches who found extra ice time to work with the kids. Coaches who helped pick a kid up after the disappointment of being cut from a team. Coaches who helped foster a love of the game in children.

So the message here is simple; not everyone played hockey as a kid but that doesn't mean you cannot influence a child. You never know the difference you can make. And more importantly, that kid you helped today, will likely grow up and help a kid tomorrow.

Photo courtesy of NYU School Med/Twitter