

Ted Carroll retires from Leadership Greater Hartford

Months ago, Ted Carroll announced to the AHNA board that he would be retiring at the end of June in 2020.

At the time it seemed like a long way off, but even then it was not welcomed news. Ted had been helping, guiding, and coaching AHNA for the past seven years, both by serving as a consultant and shepherding members into



Leadership Greater Hartford's various programs, to help us understand and implement what was needed to be an effective board of an effective organization.

His calm and measured demeanor gave all of us a sense of confidence that we could do this. He also helped us arrive at a clearer idea of what the "this" was.

He was always the optimist, and his experience guiding so many nonprofit organizations before us gave us much needed encouragement and assurance.

So naturally, when this pandemic and the resulting gathering restrictions came about, the farewell party that should have been, like every other in person gathering, was reduced to an online Zoom event. The only consolation is that it is all recorded and available on Facebook.

Attending the event provided a powerful reminder of just how broadly Ted's talents and kindness extended. Even while he was spending so much time and attention focused on AHNA and Asylum Hill, he was doing much the same for numerous other organizations in Hartford and Greater Hartford.

Little did we know that Leadership Greater Hartford was just one of many such programs around the country, and that they even had an organization of their own called the Association of Leadership Programs. Not surprisingly, Ted served in a leadership role in that organization as well, and when you go to their website, the first banner photo shows very familiar faces from LGH and Ted receiving the Lifetime Legacy Award.

Throughout this article I've been using the past tense, but the best part of the farewell party was when Ted spoke and said that while he was stepping down from his position as President and CEO of LGH, he was not done giving to the community. Without committing to any specific plans he said "As I prepare to retire from my fulltime job, please know that I'm not done yet either. I intend to stay here, to work, to volunteer, to worship, to play with you. I look forward to spending more time with my family, including my grandkids. And when it's safe I hope that Jane and I can travel... But I do leave with my tank full. It is full of love for you and this community."

For the full program go to: <https://bit.ly/tcarrollfb> And to hear all of Ted's remarks start at 29:45 It's well worth listening to more than once.