

SCORE TIP OF THE MITT HONORS THREE OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

PETOSKEY – June 1, 2024. SCORE Tip of the Mitt Chapter recently honored three outstanding volunteer mentors, retiring after a cumulative 55 years of service to the chapter and to entrepreneurs in the area.

Margo Johnson (Charlevoix) , Herb Carlson (Petoskey) and Bill Collins (Petoskey) have been a mainstay of the mentor base for SCORE in this area for more than 23 years. Together, they have worked with more than 400 aspiring entrepreneurs, helping them to start their businesses in the Tip of the Mitt area.

Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 17 million entrepreneurs start, grow or successfully exit a business. SCORE's 10,000 volunteers provide free, expert mentoring, resources and education in all 50 U.S. states and territories. The Tip of the Mitt SCORE chapter, located in scenic Northern Michigan, was established in 1988. The chapter has many dedicated volunteers who provide free business advice, no-cost business training through webinars and workshops, and contribute to a library of numerous templates and tools.

Margo Johnson's career was with the Ford Motor Company. She provided human resources "mentoring" to leadership, mainly in organization and personnel planning and development. Herb Carlson had a 10-year career at IBM followed by various entrepreneurial enterprises such as a car dealership, hydraulics company and clothing store. Bill Collins was an executive in the auto industry for 40 years. He was a student of leadership and exercised talent in marketing, manufacturing & new venture development establishing numerous joint ventures overseas.

When asked why they joined SCORE, Margo Johnson replied, "A Ford acquaintance invited me to attend a chapter meeting where I met dedicated volunteers who were passionate about their work with clients. It was contagious, and working to grow and strengthen the small business community was what I needed to do in my second career!" Both Bill and Herb concur.

"Sometimes the mentoring a client means leading them to a good decision such as not to proceed," states Johnson. "They save themselves from a bad investment, partnership arrangement, legal trouble." But Margo, Bill and Herb all agree that they are proud of the clients that started, grew, and are now thinking about succession planning for their businesses – how their businesses can continue on and leave a great legacy in our region.

SCORE is always looking for qualified volunteers to join the corps of executives around the country, supporting the efforts of small business owners. SCORE mentors are there for the life of the business – from opening to closing, buying to selling.

SCORE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and a resource partner of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Thanks to this generous support from the SBA and the

selfless contributions of more than 10,000 dedicated volunteers, most offerings are delivered at no cost.

To learn more about becoming a mentor, or if you need mentoring support, go to score.org/tipofthemitt.

Cutline L to R: Herb Carlson, Margo Johnson, Bill Collins.