



In the summer of 1998, Pat Young approached me with a startling question. Pat asked whether I would join her in founding a new independent school in Greenwich. My wife Tracey and I had known Pat for many years, as an educator, neighbor and friend. But I found her request staggering, not least because she wanted to open the new school in September which was then only three months away.

I, of course, agreed. As everyone who has worked with her knows, Pat is a woman of indomitable spirit and vision who inspires others to pursue even the most formidable challenges.

Fortunately, the timing was right for me. I had recently retired from a career in advertising. Our son Colin, then aged 6, was poised to enter grade 1. Tracey and I knew that Pat's belief in a school that would educate a child's spirit, as well as his mind and body, would be unique. We knew that a school with Pat as its leader would transmit to its students the core values that we believed in. We were delighted to give Colin that opportunity.



*Cutting the ribbon the opening day of school, September 1998*

In those early months, Pat and I met around a kitchen table, and boy did we work hard. We enlisted the aid of several remarkable supporters, led by community activist Gina Higbee and my wife Tracey. While I negotiated a lease for classroom space, put the first Board of Trustees together and established our not-for-profit corporation, Pat wrote the mission, developed the curriculum and hired faculty. Together, we named the school, and Tracey discovered the Triskelion, a symbol of the School's goal of educating each student's mind, body and spirit.

Less than three months after our initial conversation, Pat and I held a press conference at Greenwich Town Hall to officially announce the opening of The Stanwich School. The following week, Pat and I presented our case to a group of prospective parents at our new home on Stanwich Road. In September, we opened our doors to 72 students in grades kindergarten, one and two. Our dream had, miraculously, become a reality.

I had the distinct privilege of serving as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of The Stanwich School for its first three years. During those early days, we were fortunate to have the unflagging assistance of an outstanding Board of Advisors. In particular, we benefited greatly from the support and counsel of Patsy Howard, then Headmistress of Greenwich Academy, and Duncan Edwards, then Headmaster of Brunswick School. We are also indebted to a spectacular group of men and women who served on The Stanwich School's first Board of Trustees. Their leadership, support and pioneer spirit enabled The Stanwich School to open, and then to thrive.

Like a proud parent sending his child off into the world, I stepped down as Chairman of the Board in 2001. I now serve as Founder Chairman Emeritus of the Board of Trustees, but my passion for this precious enterprise is undiminished. As I look back from where we began, I marvel at what we have achieved in such a short time and the joy that the journey has provided to me. I look forward to watching The Stanwich School continue to grow and flourish, and educate the men and women of tomorrow, and I will keep an eye on it from my position on the Board.

Daniel S. Reid  
Founder, Chairman Emeritus  
The Stanwich School