P. Leo Corcoran Humanitarian Award Honoree

Rick High
President, John M. Corcoran & Co.

In 1975, while working for an anti-poverty nonprofit in Cincinnati, Rick High wrote a magazine article on the plight of the poor being “locked into hopelessness” due to societal systems and a lack of resources—an injustice that has fueled his desire to help the less fortunate since. Together, Rick and Caritas are working to free individuals from the ravages of poverty through social justice and resources, namely housing that a low-income person can afford.

Rick joined John M. Corcoran & Co. in 1982, having started his career in the nonprofit and government sectors. With no prior business experience, he learned by watching. “Leo Corcoran and his brother John showed me that how a business conducts itself is just as important as turning a profit,” he recalls. “Fairness and integrity were paramount. So was respecting the worth and dignity of every person. Leo and John left a legacy of goodwill wherever they went, whatever they were doing.”

As president since 2002, Rick believes his foremost obligation is to honor and preserve that legacy—and then to build on it. And that includes following Leo’s and John’s examples of contributing to the community, especially to the economically disadvantaged, both as a company and individually. Today the company manages more than 10,000 apartment homes, about 4,000 of which are affordable housing.

“The company giving part comes easily,” Rick reports, “because so many of the staff are deeply committed to service. They generate the ideas. My role is simply to encourage and ask, ‘How can I help?’” The results are notable: In 2008, the National Multi Housing Council awarded the company its national “Good Neighbor Award” for its charitable work.

On the personal side, Rick and his wife Anne Perkins focus their giving on the disadvantaged in our cities. Favorites include The Food Project, NOAH, English for New Bostonians, St. Mary’s Center for Women and Children, the United Negro College Fund, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund and, of course, Caritas.

“Caritas is providing disadvantaged individuals decent, affordable, safe places to live—the foundational first step in escaping lives of poverty. I have terrific trust in the Board and staff. The results of their hard work are self-evident.” – Rick High

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P. Leo Corcoran Humanitarian Award Winners
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2014 Ann Marie Connolly
2013 Jack Connors
2012 Don Rodman

Join Us
Monday, January 28, 2019
Westin Boston Waterfront Cocktails, Dinner, Live Auction & Program
For more information: Please contact Karin Cassel Mitterando, Chief Development Officer, Director of Communications, kcassel@caritascommunities.org or 781.843.1242 ext. 23. caritascommunities.org