

## Partner Profile: Roger Schultz

**R**oger Schultz broke away from his demanding schedule as owner of Northwest Opticians and two Dunn Bros Coffee shops to talk about his commitment to MSAB. A conversation at a pool party in the home of a friend introduced Roger to the school. A friend, Mike Langmack, told Roger about golfing with Mark Sathe, an MSAB graduate, at a tournament that benefited the Academy. Mike had learned that the tournament needed a sponsor. He also knew that Roger was on the board of the Upper Midwest Optical Golf Day.

The conversation piqued Roger's imagination. He initiated a meeting with Mark and discovered him to be "an impressive person who was not limited by his disability." Mark, who is now deceased, was the owner of Sathe Associates, a board member of the MSAB Foundation, and a long-time advocate for children who are blind.

Roger envisioned a partnership between the MSAB Foundation and the UMOGD as a "perfect match." He recalls, "It seemed natural to have an optical tournament." Roger shared his vision with the board of the UMOGD, which had been funding charitable causes for nearly fifty years. A unanimous decision launched the partnership with MSAB through the MSAB Foundation. Since 2002, the UMOGD has raised \$162,000 to benefit the school. Roger says, "We want the kids to have a normal life." Students at MSAB, like typical children, thrive on challenges. They grow in confidence and their imaginations soar as they scale the Climbing Wall and explore the tunnels, mountains, and valleys of the Obstacle Course.

Roger has both personal and professional experience with vision loss. His father, the founder of Northwest Opticians, developed macular degeneration as he aged. Roger began working with glasses in the company lab when he was fifteen. Now, 39 years later, he says he has enjoyed his career in the optical industry.

Roger has many years of experience in fundraising for charitable causes, most of which have benefited children. "I have been very fortunate with what I have. I want to help those who are less fortunate." His past efforts have enabled many children living in poverty to attend summer camps. Recently, he worked to fund the mounted patrol for the St. Paul police until the city could take over. Roger describes getting the police on horseback as "breaking barriers." He says kids can see the police as friends when they pat their horses.

Reflecting on the partnership between UMOGD and MSAB, Roger describes the performance of MSAB singers at the 2010 golf dinner as a "high point." "The music touched everybody's heart," According to Roger, the music showed the students' ability to excel. He concludes, "Involvement with the school has made the journey more meaningful."



Roger Schultz, Owner/  
Optician of Northwest  
Opticians and Vice  
President UMOGD Sight  
Preservation Foundation



MSAB students Alex Nelson and  
David Leathers performed at the 2010  
Golf Day banquet.