



DOTTI GAMBLE BECHTOL

Class of 1971

Dorothy Gamble Bechtol has consistently aimed high ever since attending Axelton Elementary School in Forward Township. She credits the educational base she got in the Elizabeth Forward schools for her success in many aspects of her diverse life experiences.

The daughter of Albert and Ruth Gamble, Bechtol lived in Forward Township with her parents and two siblings. Her father owned and operated the Forward Township Telephone Company until it was bought by Bell Telephone.

After graduation from EFHS, Bechtol attended the Bradford School in Pittsburgh and quickly found a job with Consolidated Natural Gas. Some people find that first job and remain with that employer for years. Not her, as she continually sought to improve herself. Bechtol left Consolidated in 1973 and began working with several corporate partners at the prestigious downtown Pittsburgh law firm of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott. While there, she earned her Paralegal Certificate at Robert Morris University.

It was while working with Eckert that her intelligence and poise was noticed by the chairman of one of Eckert's larger clients, The

Levinson Steel Company. Aaron Levinson saw in her the kind of results-oriented individual that he wanted for his "right hand" person. In 1977, he convinced Bechtol to leave Eckert and join Levinson Steel. During her time at Levinson Steel, she worked closely with Levinson, who, somewhat famously, was known for "matchmaking". Levinson made introductions and successfully made a match between her and Levinson Steel's Director of Industrial Relations, John Bechtol. They married in May of 1979, two weeks after he left Levinson Steel to begin his law career as an attorney with the downtown Pittsburgh firm of Reed Smith Shaw and McClay.

Bechtol rose through the ranks at Levinson Steel becoming Manager of Special Projects/ Administration and Corporate Secretary and later Vice President - Administration/Corporate Secretary. During the last years of her employment with Levinson Steel, she was a member of Levinson's Acquisition Team. Bechtol traveled the country extensively, spending a great deal of time in New York City working on corporate acquisitions. It was during that time that she helped grow Levinson Steel from a reasonably sized local steel fabricator and warehouse to one of the largest steel warehouse companies in the United States. With her help, the company grew to a 600-employee, \$250Million company in just a few years. Open to a different challenge, Bechtol was convinced by a landlord of Levinson Steel to take a position as General Manager of the structural steel fabrication division of Industrial Steel Construction in Chicago IL. Commuting back and forth, in two years, Dotti had increased the division's sales by 100% and had moved the division into a more profitable line of business upon obtaining stringent quality credentials.

Having achieved her major goals and having grown somewhat weary of the commute to Chicago, Bechtol left that job and joined her husband in the opening of his own law firm in 1992. During her 12 years as the Chief Administrative Officer of the firm, she helped grow the firm from a two-person shop to nine attorneys and multiple support staff. Her husband credits her with reducing administrative costs, organizing new client outreach programs and bringing in new data, voice and client billing systems. Bechtol helped make this firm, which specialized in management-side labor and employment law, a force in that area of the law while competing positively against many of the larger firms in Pittsburgh.

It was during this time that Bechtol also returned to thoughts of higher education. She made the decision to obtain the college degree which had been put on a back burner. With her usual drive and desire to succeed, she attended Chatham University in Pittsburgh and graduated in 1997, Summa Cum Laude, with a BA in Psychology and Economics.

During this same time period, Bechtol joined the board of directors of the Visiting Nurse Foundation ("VNF"). The VNF had been the charitable arm of Visiting Nurses of Allegheny County. Because of difficult Medicare reimbursement issues for VNF, she was asked to leave the board and help save the VNF. She became the Executive Director and kept the VNF alive for a significant period of time during which VNF became Health Hope Network. HHN is a premier Pittsburgh provider of stroke survivor rehabilitation programs and the largest administrator of flu shots in Allegheny County.

Beyond her work with Health Hope Network, Bechtol has remained a guiding light in the Pittsburgh charitable community. She has been active as a board member of Family Links (a non-profit serving youth, adults, and seniors with community, behavioral, and social programs) Vintage (a community center for older adults offering activities and programs to help them stay active and healthy), the Women's Board of Pittsburgh (which annually supports a variety of smaller, overlooked non-profits) and Civil Law Project, a subsidiary of Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh.

In 1999, as one of her varied interests, she began racing vintage automobiles with her husband. Being in Pittsburgh and racing a vintage car (there have been Porsches, an Elva, a Mini Cooper, and an Alfa to name a few), Bechtol became actively involved in the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix.. In recent years, she has been a member of the board of directors and treasurer of the organization. It has been fun for her as a racer but it has meant more to support the charities that the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix supports, which help individuals with autism and intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Her commitment to those in need in Pittsburgh has been lengthy and meritorious.

Bechtol lives in the Fox Chapel area of Pittsburgh with her husband. Her daughter, Maralee lives in Mt. Lebanon and her granddaughter, Maya, is a student at Ohio University. She has enjoyed her racing, sailing, and traveling.