

Philip Rumore



Philip Rumore, President, Buffalo Teachers Federation is a Graduate from East Rockaway High School on Long Island, New York and Graduated from the University of Buffalo. After graduating one-half year early from the University of Buffalo where he majored in Physics and Philosophy, Phil secured a position teaching emotionally disturbed children at what was then called School #6 on Hickory & South Division Streets in Buffalo. His original plan was to earn enough money to pursue Physics and Philosophy graduate study at the University of Indiana where he had been accepted for admission.

Thirteen years later, Phil was still teaching emotionally disturbed children at School #6, “the challenge of working with the children that everybody else had given up on became too important to turn my back on”.

Since becoming President in 1981, Mr. Rumore is continuing the BTF’s fight to lower class size, ensure that schools are safe havens for students, provide increased student support services and end the detrimental over-testing of students. His highest priority is to develop programs to open lines of communication between parents and teachers so that parents become more involved with the education of their children.

Most recently, he has become an integral part and major support of “Say Yes to Education – Buffalo”. Phil initiated the BTF “Make A Dream Come True” Scholarship fund for Buffalo Public School District graduates and children of Buffalo teachers who will attend a post-secondary school. This fund was set up with a contribution from Buffalo teachers of monies left over from its back-pay settlement and is administered by the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo. The BTF is in the third year of distributing 34,000 age-appropriate free books for each student. The goal is for each student to have a collection of books they receive from Kindergarten to Senior years.

Phil never avoids a challenge. His credo is:

- In order to become all you are capable of being,
- you must try to be more.

- In order to achieve all that is possible,
- you have to try the impossible.

This coupled with his belief that “a problem is something in search of a solution” means that the BTF is in a constant state of action. When asked who he credits for his success, with hesitation, he credits his mother. “My mother and father were divorced when I was two and we never heard from him again. Single-handedly, my mother raised me and instilled a value system and strength for which I am grateful.

It disturbs me when people refer to “single-parent families” as a major problem. It is a generality that isn’t always true in reality.