

Hugh and Carolyn Braithwaite

Hugh and Carolyn Braithwaite are longtime friends of Radnor Educational Foundation. The parents of three children, two of whom are now in college, they connected with us as donors as far back as 2003, and in 2012 made their first contribution through Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit program. Their generosity through personal and corporate giving and sincere interest in the organization's grant initiatives has informed the direction of REF's evolution.

Hugh and Carolyn operate a successful Communications firm, and when REF followed the adoption of its strategic plan with a move to rebrand with a new logo and tagline, Hugh met with me and a team of REF board members to begin that process, donating his time and expertise to the organization during a busy period for his business.

One of the Braithwaite's greatest gifts to the Radnor Educational Foundation was loaning their middle child, Owen, to us as a student representative to the board. When we interviewed Owen for the two-year position during the spring of his sophomore year, he spoke of the value of REF's growing commitment to student well-being and programs that promote social and emotional growth. He had personally been involved with *SpeakUp!* at the High School, a partnership among the district, REF and *SpeakUp!*'s nonprofit, growing to 197 participants last year. Owen also has his father's gift for storytelling, helping REF as part of our marketing team. He was responsible for the beloved tagline for our annual Harlem Wizard's game: "Time to Get Schooled!" Hugh states that his autobiography will be titled "My Family - the Ultimate Agency," and he and Carolyn are the proof behind that pronouncement. Owen was without question one of our most influential student leaders, and behind him were always his parents, whose interest in his involvement with the Radnor Educational Foundation was consistently present. For them, REF is a family affair.

Though they no longer have children in the district, the Braithwaites have expressed the value they place as a family on public education in Radnor and the importance of our district in the community, and shared that for that reason they had determined after Owen's graduation to continue their commitment to the Radnor Educational Foundation through the EITC program.

For their personal generosity, exemplary model as Radnor parents, and their commitment to our community, the board of trustees honors Hugh and Carolyn Braithwaite as Radnor Educational Foundation Partners in Excellence.