

James Worthington '78



After graduating from West Chester with a degree in Health and Physical Education, Jim worked for four years in the stock market. But he always had dreams of starting a business in health and fitness. He has created one of the largest and most successful health clubs in America, the Newtown Athletic Club. For the past 37 years, he has made maverick contributions to the fitness industry by pioneering industry initiatives and trends that have been emulated by others throughout the industry. He has been a tireless advocate to improve the health and well-being of

thousands of families in the Bucks County area. He has consistently innovated and broken away from the norm to find new and creative ways to encourage families to be more active and smarter with their health decisions. His business ventures reach beyond the health club industry and include banking, real estate, and finance. He is also the President/Owner of Real Estate Development Projects; Owner of First Priority Bank and the President and Founder of the Delaware Valley Association of Health Clubs.

As a humanitarian and philanthropist, Jim is a strong supporter of his community and charity organizations - both on a personal and a professional level. He is the founder of Have a Heart Foundation, which has funded many initiatives with six figure contributions, most notably a special needs playground and a lifesaving kidney transplant. Jim also founded the Hatboro-Horsham Education Foundation and the Hatboro-Horsham Hall of Fame. He is the founder of the Hatboro-Horsham High School Alumni Association where he has been president for 26 years. He has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for scholarships and established one of the largest endowments for Pennsylvania Public Schools with a perpetual scholarship fund awarding multiple annual scholarships. In his own words, Jim attributes his accomplishments to a simple idea, *"Being willing to do what others can do, but they choose not to do."*