

Ed Kasper of KASPER & ASSOCIATES is a recognized mentor and leader in the business community.

2005 “Thanks from the Mentorees” Honoree

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Ed Kasper opened his own merger and acquisition business, Kasper & Associates, in 1984, but his children hardly noticed.

In the midst of organizing his firm, which helps business owners sell medium-sized, privately-held companies, Kasper says he made a decision to never sacrifice a moment of his time with his family in the name of his business.

For that, his son, Layne, says he will always be grateful.

“My dad never put his work before our family,” Layne Kasper says. “My dad coached me all the way through childhood. From baseball to soccer, if I played it, he coached it. He was like that in everything. So many people are praised for their business sense and business achievements, but a lot of them sacrificed in their personal life to achieve that. My dad has shown me that that’s not how it has to be. You can have success in your personal and in your professional life.”

Layne Kasper says his father’s lifelong lessons hit home recently when a childhood friend, who now has a son of his own, called Layne to tell him a story.

“My friend called and said his son’s Boy Scout troop couldn’t find a dad to lead some meetings,” Layne Kasper says. “My friend said he thought back to when we were young and asked himself what he would be like if my dad had never taken the time to coach. Because of the impact my dad made on him, he now leads a Boy Scout meeting.”

Layne Kasper joined his father at Kasper & Associates eight years ago, and, he says, he has enjoyed every minute of watching his father be a great man.



“He didn’t preach it, but by watching how he spent his time and [the] fact that he was always there, he showed me what his priorities were,” Layne Kasper says. “Maybe he sacrificed some business achievements at the expense of coaching baseball, but it sure didn’t look like he minded.”

Ed Kasper says having his son, Layne, recommend him for the *Business Press*’ mentor award is the greatest gift a father could ask for.

“One of my favorite sayings has always been, ‘preach the gospel at all times, if necessary, use words.’ I have tried hard to live my life like that, and I am pleased my son was kind enough to think of me for this honor,” Ed Kasper says.

Ed and his wife, Janet, have been married for 41 years. The couple has two children, Lori and Layne, and four granddaughters.

— Aleshia Claunch

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