

Lighthouse Christian School supporters turn out for Legacy Builders Breakfast

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Supporters of Lighthouse Christian School in Gig Harbor turned out Thursday morning for the school's fourth annual Legacy Builders Breakfast. More than a mere fundraising event, the gathering provided an opportunity for those involved with the private school to showcase what the kindergarten through eighth-grade learning institution means to them and how it's impacted their lives.

"We look forward to this morning all year long," said Mark Soupiset, chair of the parent-run Lighthouse Christian School Board of Directors, noting the school aims focuses on academic, social and spiritual development of its students. "This morning is about big dreams, big victories for Lighthouse Christian School."

Principal Stephen Roddy detailed his own journey to becoming an education leader at Lighthouse Christian School. After seeing the strongest person he know — his dad — wither away and die from cancer, Roddy said he lost the will to work hard and do his best.

That attitude, he said, remained with him until he started attending a Christian high school, where the principal and a history teacher told him they believed God had bigger things in store for the young Roddy.

"It wasn't an instant change," Roddy said of their belief and encouragement in him.

Gradually, however, Roddy embraced life again, started working hard and did his best in all endeavors.

Fifteen years later, he said with a smile, he's now principal at Lighthouse Christian School.

He listed off some of the school's recent achievements: a pay scale in line with that of public sector teachers, test scores across all subjects in the top 20 percent nationwide and tuition assistance for 34 families this past year.

"Thank you for partnering with me and the entire staff," he said.

Other lives have been touched by Lighthouse Christian School as well.

Susan Bouterse credited the school in large part for the academic, athletic and social success of her son, Alex, who entered Gig Harbor High School this year.

Former Lighthouse Christian School student Lauren Trittin, now a senior at Life Christian Academy in Tacoma, called the school "a second family for me."

"This is a place — as you've heard — that changes lives," observed Spencer Hutchins, a 2000 graduate of Lighthouse Christian School who is now in his final year of law school at the University of Washington.

The three previous Legacy Builders Breakfasts have raised about \$1 million total in sustainable funds, Roddy said.

If you would like to contribute to the school, or if you would like more information on the school, check out their website at: www.lcschool.org (<http://www.lcschool.org/>).