

Larry Orkin's Jr. found the Young On Set Support Group of CT, the same way most did. He was urgently seeking the answers of what led to his slower movement and cognition challenge.

Larry was grateful for the giving spirit and advice ever present in the Support Group setting. Embracing the theme of "Give Back" and "Make a Difference", he *volunteered* to serve as Bookkeeper and for the Group.

Then *came* that fateful day, that there was growing recognition by those assembled, that we **were more** than a support group. That WE could play a bigger role, and advance quality of life initiatives and the development of disease modifying treatments, by becoming a 501c3 Not for Profit.

It didn't take long from this decision that Larry *volunteered* to author the filing. This was recognized to be a major undertaking, as history tells us, there is traditionally the need to provide more and more information before such approvals are granted. Within four months of submittal (normally takes twice as long), the Connecticut Advocates for Parkinson's became an incorporated Not for Profit, and Larry accepted the position as Treasurer and an inaugural member of the Board of Directors.

Larry led the advance of the organization's bookkeeping from a "spreadsheet to QuickBooks". Being part of a leadership team for a growing Not for Profit forces one to step out of their comfort zone. Larry also tackled Insurance requirements for the charity. There were many moments, that Larry subjected himself to a testing learning curve in uncharted waters. He fought off the insecurities, and dove into resolving many of the challenges in his way, often times with the support of his wife Margo, their four children, and father, Larry Sr.

To some, that's what Larry was,.....and that's what Larry did. But he contributed to the mission in various other ways as well. He asked to be included in Clinical Trials, and was involved with numerous studies that, would not benefit him, but others. He has taken advantage of the various social and wellness opportunities, through participation at many of the Group's events, and a leading proponent of the BeatPD program.

Larry will step down from his positions effective April 30th, and hand over the reigns to a very capable volunteer, Vicki Kulas.

During Larry's tenure, CAP grew,.....and grew.....and grew. From its first meeting in October 2006 with eight people, to its current size of three chapters and over 140 active members.

That's quite a legacy for someone to leave behind. But in Larry's words, "You won't get rid of me that easy. I'll still be around."

That is encouraging, as first and foremost, Larry is a good friend to many of us. Thank you Larry for volunteering, and giving so much, to Make a Difference.