

# Successes & Strategies

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Issue 49, November 2008

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## Being Thankful

I've been writing the Successes & Strategies newsletter now for more than a few Novembers without using one to express thanks. That is an oversight I am about to correct. I have a few traditional expressions of thanks that I would like to make, and perhaps a few that are a bit *less* traditional.

So thank you's go out to -

- Mom and Dad – Dad is no longer with us but I am one of those who feel that those we love who leave before we do are always around. So to Dad thanks for always being a Dad but also being a mentor, a golfing buddy, an advisor and a good guy. Those who know my Mom and me know how much she has influenced my life. As a divorced Mom of 3, she persevered through a lot and as kids we never knew how much until we were older, a testimony to her love and caring. A kind heart, a gentle soul, I have truly been blessed. Thanks Mom and Dad.
- Diane – My “significant other” – I only use that term because I am too old for “girlfriend” and because she is so much more significant than me. I have never known anyone so honest and loyal. Though my work often puts me out in front of people, I am shy by nature. Warm and inviting, Didi knows how to make everyone feel welcome. Overcoming her own challenges with great strength, I look forward to a long life with my French girl from ‘Gahdnah’ Mass.
- Steve Rodman & John McGovern – My “bosses.” This could qualify as sucking up but these two gentlemen were not looking to hire in 2001 when I sent a resume. They took a chance and gave me an opportunity to help our clients in ways that are very fulfilling and gratifying. I only wish more bosses were as willing to invest in the growth of their firm the way these two have. They listen, they empower and they understand. That is why Rodman & Rodman is the firm that it is.
- Binder clips – My research tells me that binder clips have been around since 1911 but they certainly weren't a big part of my life until around 10 years ago. They hold all my stuff. Sure, Rodman & Rodman is paperless, but before we scan things, we have to keep it together. Binder clips do this so much better than a rubber band or a paper clip. Binder clips rule.
- Michigan State University – My alma mater. I transferred to MSU after 2 years and I have not made a better decision since. The experience changed me forever. I want to express thanks here to inspire you further. Be sure to guide your children who will attend college to carefully consider their options and make a good choice. Comfort should be a big part of it. 25 years later, I step on the campus of MSU and it still feels like home. GO GREEN!
- All the clients that I have worked with – That includes some of you who read this newsletter. One of the most wonderful aspects of my job is that I get exposed to literally hundreds of business owners and key team members, and I learn something from all of them. Some think being a CPA is all calculators, taxes and ledger pages or that being a Strategic Consultant is all analysis and reporting. It is anything but. Having the opportunity to work with clients is always enriching, educational, often entertaining and a heck of a lot of fun. Tax season can be challenging but I have been through 25 of them and I'm still here. I am not a glutton for punishment so trust me, it is all worth it. Thank you!
- Al Kaline, Steve Yzerman, Barry Sanders – I am a sports nut and I am from Detroit. Like many of you who idolize Ted Williams, Bobby Orr or even Tom Brady, I have my own sports heroes. Kaline, Yzerman and Sanders, if you know them at all, possess one other admirable trait beyond great sports skill: Class. Like speed, you can't teach it, but it makes for a great role model to follow. It is one thing to excel on the field of play, another to excel at life afterward. I only possess three autographs amongst my sports memorabilia. Guess who they are?

No matter who you are, or where you are from, reach out on Thanksgiving and show appreciation to those who are important to you. It's a good habit year-round for that matter.