

UNIQUESource®

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

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Charese Hill, editor



UNIQUESOURCE® PRODUCTS & SERVICES WELCOMES JOHN O'LEARY AS THE 2016 EMBRACE THE ABILITIES AWARDS DINNER GUEST SPEAKER ON JUNE 13, 2016

What if one message could change your life?

What if one man could provide hope that the best is yet to come?

This man is John O'Leary.

As a nine-year-old boy, John was burned on 98% of his body and given less than one percent chance to live. His amazing journey of survival illustrates the incredible power of the human spirit.

John and his family kept their experience private until his parents wrote a book, *Overwhelming Odds*, to thank the family and friends who supported them on their journey of healing.

His book led to organizations around the world requesting to hear first-hand how John defied the odds. Now, every year, John empowers over 100,000 people to take back their life, ignite their possibility and change their world.

John is a business owner, writer, husband and father of four.

Expected to die. Now, teaching others how to truly live.

Please help us welcome, John O'Leary.



INSIDE NOTES

President's Corner	2
John O'Leary continues	3
Photo License TechSpotlight	4

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Spring represents the fourth quarter of our fiscal year. At this time each year we are busy with a combination of events that feel, at times, like we have one foot on the dock and one foot on the boat that is not tied to the dock.

Half of our efforts are laser focused on the typical year end activities and, at least since I've been with UniqueSource, looking forward to exceeding our business objectives and wondering by how much we may exceed those expectations. This year is different because of the negative impact on UniqueSource sales caused by the extensive budget impasse by the Commonwealth. While our product sales are well off of our plan for this year, the good news is that we know how to effectively manage our expenses and overall financial plan and are in good shape on the bottom line, thereby minimizing the fiscal damage to the organization. We'll be OK.

The "visionary" half of our energy is making plans for and looking forward to next fiscal year. A new year, which is a reset of sorts, always brings the excitement of a fresh start, a new set of challenges, new goals, and new projects and programs designed to enhance our operations and increase our capabilities to sell products and services for our Members and the professionals with disabilities they employ. As one might expect, we are looking more critically than ever at the reality of what next fiscal year will bring and, specifically, how the next Commonwealth budget cycle may further impact our sales, especially for products. So, conservatism is guiding our expense plan while the need for greater diversity is influencing our sales objectives for next fiscal year. Our team is up for the challenge!

On the cusp of our fiscal year transition, we will host our favorite event of the year. This year, in recognition of our 60th anniversary and renewed focus on all of the professionals with disabilities that our program serves, we are renaming the Nettie Mann Achievement Awards Banquet to the Embrace the Abilities Dinner. This year we will present the UniqueSource Achievement Award to 24 deserving men and women

who will be recognized for their outstanding career performance. These awardees distinguished themselves in a workforce of over 2,400 Member employees who work to produce products or deliver services as a result of UniqueSource sales.



In honor of the entire 2,400+ Member employees working as a result of the UniqueSource program, and all individuals with a disability who are seeking meaningful employment, we are launching a new campaign to bring awareness to this able workforce. At the Dinner and throughout our publications in the future you will find the Embrace the Abilities branding to remind everyone of the true purpose of our program.

As always, please feel free to connect directly with me at vloose@UniqueSource.com if you have any questions or would like to Embrace the Abilities of professionals with disabilities in Pennsylvania

Vincent M. Loose
President, CEO



JOHN O'LEARY

If you are ready to tackle your challenges without relinquishing the joy of today and the possibility of tomorrow, you have found the right place. Now is the time for you and your organization to boldly step forward.

John O'Leary works with hundreds of organizations to transform today's challenges into a foundation for incredible growth. He's taught businesses key strategies to succeed in any environment. He empowers thousands of individuals around the world to lead fuller, more productive and inspired lives.

John will show you how to achieve success and significance through:

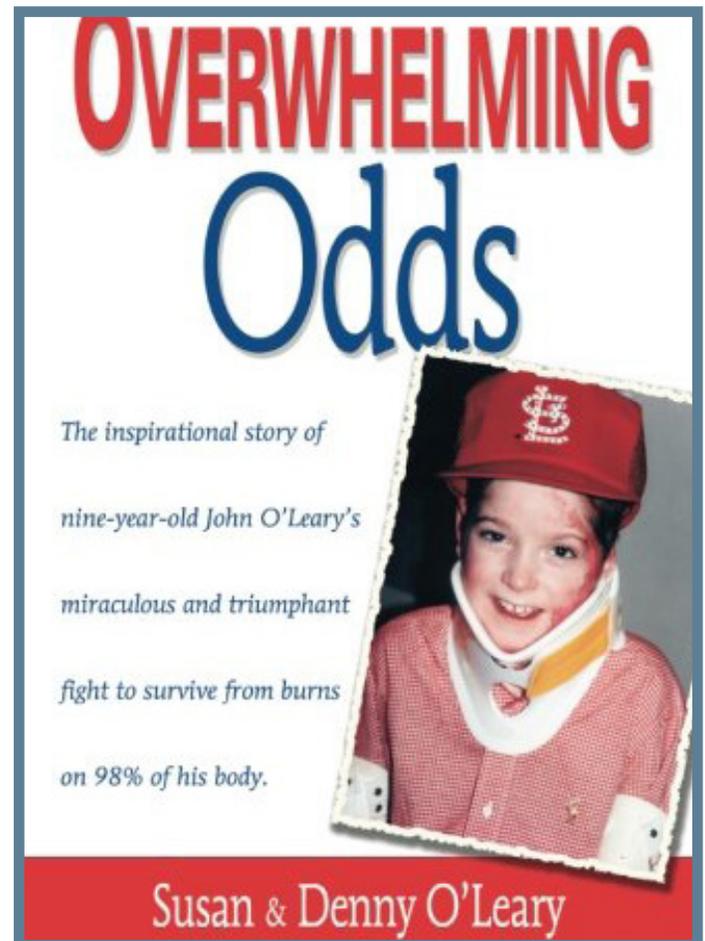
- Specific, action-oriented, goal-centered steps
- Accountability and personal buy-in
- Lasting impact and lifelong growth

As a child, John experienced first hand, the devastating nature of fire which left him burned over 100 percent of his body. He was given less than one percent chance of surviving the first night. His unlikely recovery meant a journey of pain and loss that could have easily been insurmountable.

Yet, John chose not only to rise above adversity, but to thrive. As a college graduate, business owner, philanthropist, husband and father, he serves as an amazing beacon of hope, positive change, and bold action.

Challenges – like fire – can be destructive and uncontrollable. They can also spark passion, galvanize teams, inspire change, and forge a truly significant life. We've all been burned.

“Choose to see yourself and your business through the lens of possibility, a new perspective and the certainty that the best is yet to come”.





“She Cares...and Her Actions Show It”

Brenda McBryde is an inspiration to me. She is my hero. I knew when I was training her as a license technician for the Beaver Falls Driver License Center in the summer of 2012 that she was a special person. She has a serene air about her that is warm and welcoming. This is understandable to those who know her well. She has a deep faith that has gotten her through many trying times and she has kept her spirits high throughout.

Brenda tragically lost her daughter to Type 1 diabetes at the age of 30. Brenda was very close to her daughter who had been diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at a young age. Her sugar levels would drop dramatically at night so Brenda would sleep in her bed, she would have everything she needed right there in her room to correct it.

When Brenda’s daughter had been admitted to the hospital, Brenda told the doctors and nurses about her daughter’s problem at night. Brenda got a call early one morning that her daughter’s sugar had dropped during the night and she had slipped into a coma. She was in a coma for 11 months and Brenda was by her side every day. When her daughter finally lost her battle Brenda had a large void in her life. Brenda tells me she does not know if it was that emptiness from the loss of her daughter or a sermon one Sunday or maybe a combination but she had a need to help others. Brenda lives right at the edge of a housing project.



She noticed that a lot of the young girls were not getting what she got as a young girl; that sense of self-worth and self-confidence of being a part of a strong, close-knit family. She remembers growing up with her female family members being a big positive influence. She decided she wanted to do something for these young girls in her neighborhood so every Thursday she opens her home to anywhere from 7 to 12 girls mostly 6th and 7th graders for about an hour. She does crafts and teaches the girls manners and respect for themselves and others. She encourages them to use their imagination.

One of the crafts they have made is a large papier-mâché letter of their first name. On this letter they put who they believe they are. She tells me these days “everybody just follows” and a lot of times that takes them in the wrong direction.

Another project they worked on is manners and how to act in public settings. When the girls were ready they had a “field trip” to a nicer restaurant to use the skills they learned.

The girls enjoy these Thursday nights and always try to stay longer than the one hour. Brenda tells me she enjoys the girls “I call them my babies” and they call her “Miss Aunt Brenda”. They ask her what they can do for her. She tells them “all I want is for you to remember me and these times”.

Another project that Brenda has taken on is putting together a benefit concert for a lifelong friend of her daughter’s and the father of two of Brenda’s “girls” who is in need of a kidney-pancreas transplant. Eric has been legally blind since a little boy. Despite this challenge he has lead a full life including marrying, raising two children and coaching girl’s ball. Brenda, along with several members of her church worked long hours rehearsing in the community benefit choir and on Saturday, April 5, 2014 my husband and I had the pleasure of attending the night of “gospel music, singing and praise”. It was a great event that literally shook the church to its foundations. Over \$10,000.00 was raised on that night.

Brenda gives so much of herself to everything she does, both in her personal and professional life.

I feel honored to be a small part of her life.



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