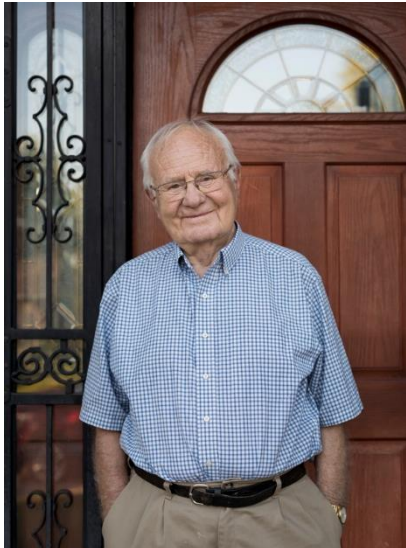


2020 National Journey Award winner celebrated

Don Schliering of Denver

By Rhoda M. Blough, Everence Stewardship Consultant



Don Schliering

“Don’s life has been dedicated to social and economic justice, advocating for peace and modeling humility. He chooses to share his faith through his actions and the stories of his life’s journeys. When he shares his life stories they are always filled with passion for others and emphasizing the good in people. His career path represents his commitment to doing good in the world. Through his work and life choices, he has touched many people.”

These words written by Dawn Schliering-Harder aptly describe the life of her father, Don Schliering, 2020 National Journey Award winner. Don was recognized on Saturday, Sept. 26 in an outside socially distanced ceremony at Glennon Heights Mennonite Church, Lakewood, Colorado.

The program included remarks by Brent Miller, Everence® Financial

Consultant, who said he was honored to call Don a “lifelong client and good friend and grateful for the impact that he’s had on me and my life.” Brent shared memories of long conversations with Don on more than just his

finances. Brent shared how most people retire and stop working but Don instead chose to teach for Regis University Business School in Denver, Colorado. He taught ethics and help create a new adult learning program for working adults.

A major accomplishment for Don, along with two Hispanic community activist and a Catholic priest, was to start a nonprofit, Brother’s Redevelopment Inc. Their mission was, and continues to be, to provide affordable, safe, and accessible housing for Colorado’s low-income, elderly, and disabled residents. Don continues to be involved as a board member for the past 49 years, BRI will be celebrating their 50-year anniversary in 2021. Don chose to give the Everence Journey award \$5,000 check to Brothers Redevelopment, Inc.

Don’s grandsons, Travis and Darren Harder, both shared about their grandfather and the special relationship they have with him.

“My grandpa encourages stewardship among others,” Darren said. “He has encouraged me to engage in stewardship by talking to me about causes that I care about. Within those conversations, Grandpa has asked me why I care about the particular issue and asks what I can do to help with the issue.”

Travis shared that he “grew up on stories my grandpa would tell – about his experience with PAX and his work with various nonprofits, including some he had helped start. These stories and works certainly inspired me. I try to live my life through my grandpa’s example, helping people wherever I can and choosing to see the good in people.”



Don with grandsons Travis and Darren Harder



*Rhoda M. Blough, Don Schliering
and Brent Miller*

The program also included sharing from others who know and love him. Don is very fond of ice cream so at the end of the program, individual ice cream treats were provided and enjoyed by all.

It was my honor and privilege to share my thoughts about Don at the event honoring Don. Reading his application, I realized what an impact Don had on so many people through his life's work by his dedication to social and economic justice and modeling humility. In the words of his grandson, Travis, "I believe his actions and presence simply inspires other people to perform acts of stewardship. His extraordinary life, full of good deeds and helping others, encourages other people to act in his stead." Don truly has lived an extraordinary life and I am so glad we were able to honor Don and his life's work! [Click here to read more online.](#)