

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Zack Rosenberg

Class of 1995

With this presentation of Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation, the Ohio Wesleyan Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored and privileged to recognize **Zack Rosenberg** as an innovative and compassionate social entrepreneur.

After his graduation from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1995, Zack moved to Washington, D.C., to serve as the Development Director for the Consortium for Services to Homeless Families, Inc. As director, Zack designed a program to help low-income people and welfare recipients attain and maintain jobs that pay livable wages.

Zack attended American University Washington College of Law, where he obtained his juris doctor, cum laude. He began his own law firm in 2004, with a practice focused on defending clients charged with criminal offenses. During this time, Zack secured the release of an innocent man who had served 20 years for a murder that he did not commit.

When Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans in 2005, Zack took action by volunteering to help rebuild the city. After getting to know the residents, witnessing the little progress that was being made, and recognizing that there were solvable problems that remained unaddressed, Zack decided to stay. He left his successful law firm, bought a truck, and moved to New Orleans.

There, Zack co-founded the St. Bernard Project with Liz McCartney, whom he later married. With the philosophy of treating clients like family, the nonprofit organization creates solution-oriented programs. The St. Bernard Project rebuilt homes for 800 families with the help of 10,000 unskilled volunteers in New Orleans, Louisiana; Joplin, Missouri; Staten Island, New York; Rockaway, New York; and Sea Bright, New Jersey. As the CEO of the St. Bernard Project, Zack designed a replicable model for post-disaster relief and pre-disaster risk mitigation for homeowners and small- to mid-sized business owners, known as Disaster Resilience and Recovery Lab (DRRL). He is additionally involved in working with war veterans and rehabilitated criminals.

The achievements of Zack, Liz McCartney, and the St. Bernard Project have earned them numerous accolades. In 2008, the St. Bernard Project was the winner of Manhattan Institute's Social Entrepreneurship Award. In 2009 and 2010, President Obama acknowledged the organization in his Hurricane Katrina anniversary addresses. Also in 2010, US News and World did a cover feature naming it as one of the top 10 most socially innovative programs in the United States. The Clinton Global Initiatives featured the St. Bernard Project in 2011, 2013, and 2014. Zack received recognition as a GLG Social Impact Fellow, a New Orleanian of the Year, a Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project Champion of Justice, and he was a recipient of the Manhattan Institute Social Innovation Award. He is also the recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from Muhlenberg College and a Distinguished Alumnus Award from Washington College of Law.

For his professional achievements and his inspiring dedication to helping others, we applaud and recognize Zack Rosenberg with this Distinguished Achievement Citation.

May 16, 2015

