



"Passionate," "humble" and "energetic" are just a few words used to describe Dick Gallagher.

Born on January 21, 1941 in The Bronx, New York alongside his twin brother, Robert, Richard "Dick" Gallagher moved around a lot growing up because of his fathers' job with the Veteran's Administration. He would eventually graduate from high school at Haverling High School in Bath, New York - before going on to King's College in Wilkes-Barre, PA and the University at Buffalo for his bachelors and master's degree, respectively.

In 1970 - Dick began serving as the director of rehabilitation services for the Buffalo Area Council on Alcoholism. Dick was director of the Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services in 1984. In 1987, after recognizing the lack of rehabilitation services for children - specifically those uninsured - Dick co-founded Kids Escaping Drugs.

Starting with the creation of Renaissance House in 1990 - Dick's passion for helping children allowed Kids Escaping Drugs to grow into one of the leading adolescent addiction services in Western New York. Now a campus of 77-beds (which serves individuals ages 12 - 26) and home to the ever-evolving Face2Face educational program - which began in 2008 - Kids Escaping Drugs has saved thousands of adolescent lives - amassing an alumni network of hundreds of graduates. To this day - through the Face2Face program - Kids Escaping Drugs continues to educate adolescents, adults, education specialist, as well as medical professionals and challenge the stigma surrounding addiction.

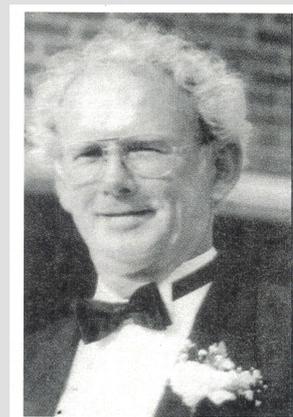
As one of his mentees said: "The biggest lesson Dick Gallagher taught me was to believe in myself. Dick taught me how to celebrate little wins and to persevere through the rough times. Dick was a mentor, a friend and the reason I am who I am professionally today. I miss him every day, but I know he is forever with me in spirit." She added, "My world is a better place for having this wonderful man in my life."

As a first-hand witness to young lives shortened by substance abuse - including his daughter, Christine, who lost her battle with

alcoholism - Dick realized the critical role of sports in molding young lives and avoiding these tragedies. Outside of his contribution to the drug and alcohol community - Dick was a fundamental player in the advancement as well as the celebration of high school sports - specifically football - for nearly four decades. In 1983, he founded Western New York High School Sports, a publication focusing on local high school football that remains active online to this day. Known as "Mr. Football," Dick also established the Western New York High School All-Academic Team to annually honor the accomplishments of over 300 local scholar-athletes in several other sports such as baseball, softball, and basketball. In 1987, he organized the All-Academic Sports Banquet - now a fixture on the local sports scene.

In 2003, he was inducted into the Greater Buffalo Sports Hall of Fame. He is a member of the Section VI Hall of Fame, the Prep Talk Hall of Fame and the Lackawanna Wall of Fame. In 2019, he was named the first recipient of the Dick Gallagher Legacy Award at the annual Kensington Lions All-Star football game. In 2021, The Buffalo News honored Dick's legacy by renaming their annual "Player of the Year" award after him.

Those privileged enough to know or be mentored by Dick agree - everything he did was for the kids. Survived by his wife, two sons, many grandchildren and his twin brother - Dick's legacy lives on in the lives he touched and the souls he saved with his compassion and empathy. Dick Gallagher proved that it is not the length of life - but the depth of life - and because of him, adolescents from all walks of life will receive a second chance for generations to come.



Dick Gallagher
1941-2020