

Emma Olshin

I was truly inspired by Michael's ability to balance a successful career with major philanthropic endeavors. As someone who has also grown up in Sharon Public Schools, it is no surprise that Michael had such a deep connection with his community, as this value is instilled in all students in our town from a young age. Programs I have been involved in like Sharon Middle School's Peer Leaders and Sharon High School's Teen Speak Out give students an opportunity to work to unite their larger school communities. We are also encouraged to find ways to improve our community outside of our schools. Just as Michael found what organizations he was passionate about, I have been volunteering at Orchard Cove, a local senior living facility, since I was twelve, and I am so grateful for the relationships I have built with the residents.

Sharon's teachers are amazing at teaching us math, science, and history, but the most important concept we learn from them is empathy. Understanding others and knowing how to show them we care is what allows Sharon graduates to be successful, and it sounds like that was definitely the case for Michael. I've thought about being a teacher for most of my life, but when I realized the vital role they play in our lives, I knew that I wanted to become an educator. The same teachers that guided Michael and helped him become the cherished man that he was have influenced me to follow in their footsteps and shape the next generation of Michaels.