“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”

This quote by Sir Winston Churchill sums up how the late D. Duane Hurtt lived. Hurtt had a steadfast commitment to make a life based on giving back.

The former Think Detroit PAL Chief Operating Officer and Chief Advancement Officer died January 20, 2007. He was 38.

Prior to joining the staff of Think Detroit PAL, Hurtt served with John Scodellaro, current board chair, as one of the co-chairs of the joint PAL/Think Detroit merger committee. Prior to that, he served on the Think Detroit Board of Directors for six years, including two years as board chair.

During his board tenure, Hurtt worked as the vice president of Ford Motor Company’s Dearborn Capital Corporation. He previously served as the president of InfoServices and as vice president of QNA, Inc.

Hurtt held a degree in mechanical engineering from Michigan State University and a law degree and MBA from the University of Michigan. Yet he willingly left a lucrative career and took a substantial pay cut to work on behalf of Detroit’s children.

“Duane was completely unique in that he was willing to put his tremendous intellectual capacity behind work that he was called to do by his heart,” said Dan Varner, CEO of Think Detroit PAL. “Each one of us is called to our own greatness; Duane’s obedience to his calling should serve as both a reminder and inspiration to each of us.”

In his memory, the Think Detroit PAL Student-Athlete Resource Center, which provides critical academic and career planning services to high school students, has been renamed the D. Duane Hurtt Student-Athlete Resource Center.