

## **This I Believe**

I believe in two simple ideas: America has always been and continues to remain the land of opportunity and that “giving is better than receiving”. My whole life has followed suit.

Born in Athens, Greece, I yearned to fulfill my dreams of good education and business success in the United States. In 1969, after high school, with 73 dollars in my pocket, I came to America. It was hard work but “love at first sight”.

The second child of a police officer, I was the only one of my three brothers and sisters to immigrate. And, I found boundless opportunities.

After settling in Pennsylvania, I worked during the day and studied English and public speaking at Penn State at night. I later focused on economics and graduated from Kutztown University, followed by an MBA in Finance from CUNY. Early on, I learned that networking is the cornerstone of opportunity. It opens doors. It’s how I landed my first job and every job since then.

Networking took me from New York City to Europe to Washington DC to Stamford CT to Houston and finally to Philadelphia. Philadelphia is now home for me and my wife. My career journey included executive positions in international banking, corporate America, entrepreneurship and academia. Finally in 2002, I followed my life’s passion and founded, and still chair, the Greater Philadelphia Senior Executive Group whose motto is “Networking for Life”.

GPSEG with close to 1000 top executive members in several states is a power house for business development through networking.

What I didn’t anticipate, was how much pleasure and pride I received from helping others. Over the years I had numerous personal experiences from referring colleagues into new executive careers, to coaching young executives or entrepreneurs starting new ventures to mentoring students launching their businesses.

As a proud American, I have come full circle from practicing to teaching entrepreneurship... giving back and helping others appreciate opportunities right here in my beloved Philadelphia. The simplest lessons are sometimes the hardest to learn. Creating opportunities for others will create opportunities for you. “Giving is better than receiving”. It always comes back to you. THIS I BELIEVE.

Chris Pavlides  
Founder & Chairman