

The Middle Third

8300 TALBOT STREET #10A KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-3555
210 TAYLOR DRIVE KEY LARGO, FLORIDA 33037-4823

1-833-TM3-ENABLES (863-3622)
WWW.THEMIDDLETHIRDFOUNDATION.ORG

1-917-399-9216
1-305-699-9202

FAX: 1-833-FAX-XTM3 (329-9863)
EMAIL: INFO@TM3.ORG

Thursday, July 25, 2019 1:35 P.M. - 2:22 P.M. EST

A Note From The Founder. . .

The Middle Third Foundation has been a goal of mine for many years. With the passing of both my parents, the voice from deep inside my soul has been telling me to take the leap and move forward. So in 2017 and 2018 I began the process of formulating this foundation.

I was born in 1970. Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, as well as other services were not provided in the public schools, as they are today. In fact, in my day the "handicapped committee" as it was known back then was ineffective and misguided in my case, to put it politely. Mom had to fight the minibus company on her own to get them to pull into our driveway on a quiet, dead end street to limit my walking on ice in the winter; this being the least insulting and hurtful of the handicapped committee that I recall. (I could tell you stories....). My parents had to balance out my needs as a child with cerebral palsy; finding and making time for the therapies and adaptive sports programs, with the needs of my two siblings. Early on in my



A Foundation Commemorating the Lives and Values of
Barbara Joy Silver Grobman & Bernard Sheldon Grende Grobman by
Inspiring & Supporting the Lives and Dreams of Our Disabled Community

childhood, my parents instilled in me a do not quit attitude, self-reliance, and a desire to accomplish the things I've wanted to in life. I lost this support with my dad dying young, and my mother's "go out there and get 'em attitude" when it came to me, with my mom becoming a brain tumor survivor. Nevertheless, I have always been grateful for their support early on, and I was quick to learn how lucky I was to have parents that pushed me during my early years; seeing the difference in motivation of other disabled children who did not have that push.

Secondarily, I have had the opportunity to live and spend time outside of the United States, and have learned we are not the most accepting of those with disabilities as some other countries may be. This is not to say, we have not improved as a nation over the years, but I still find, even now in my very late forties, I am still not looked at by many in our society as being able to make decisions for myself. One common example of many is when I ask a host or hostess at a restaurant for a table for "how many" and when we are brought to the table he or she asks those in my party, "Will this table be good for him?" Of course, I am able to answer and most of the time I do, even though I was not addressed as part of the group in the host or hostess's question.

I hope that with the creation of The Middle Third Foundation, it becomes a beckon of "Yes, I can," for our challenged community; a fitting tribute and lasting legacy of good to my awesome parents (who of course, were not perfect), and those who have had a great impact on my life, to this world.

Sincerely,

Marc Jeffrey Grobman