

BRYAN C. CRESSEY

Bryan is a pioneer of the venture capital and private equity industries. He has co-founded three significant Private Equity firms over 35 years that are each highly successful today. At age 30 he was co-founder of his first firm, Golder Thoma Cressey, now known as GTCR. Eight years ago Bryan co-founded Cressey and Company, known for its expertise investing in healthcare providers.

The Wall Street Journal credited Bryan's firm with inventing the Industry Consolidation investment strategy. He has also partnered in the building of two NYSE traded firms over the past two decades. Bryan recently created an addiction treatment center called Above and Beyond, on Chicago's West side, providing life transformation opportunities, free to the homeless and poor.

Bryan was born in Seattle, Washington. As a boy, his parents encouraged his entrepreneurial instincts as he and his sister first crushed flower petals, mixed them with water, and then sold them as perfume to neighbors. Later he provided more solid value to the neighbors by selling them fresh raspberries and Christmas cards, as well as delivering newspapers on his paper routes. His loving father had a Masters in Social Work with a private practice, and his mother was a registered nurse.

Bryan graduated from Ingraham High School in Seattle. Not wanting to leave his hometown, he attended and graduated from the University of Washington with an Economics degree. While in college, Bryan worked for a firm that sold and repaired large conveyor belts, so if you have one that needs repair, Bryan can do it.

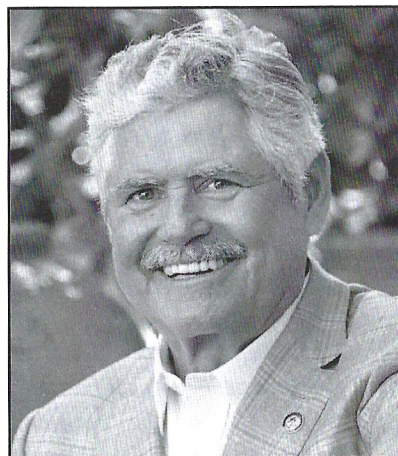
After college, Bryan was finally ready to leave Seattle and went to graduate school in Boston, where he received his JD from Harvard Law School and his MBA from Harvard Business School. During graduate school he learned about venture capital and knew that's what he wanted to do. Bryan had a desire to help younger companies grow and to invest in those companies.

The only job in the nascent venture capital business that year was in Chicago, so Bryan moved to this great city and joined the venture arm of First Chicago. After making highly successful investments on behalf of First Chicago, Bryan and two other leaders decided to found their own firm, which became Golder Thoma Cressey.

Bryan gradually developed a specialty investing in healthcare services companies. At one point in the last decade, three of the six major publicly traded hospital companies were ones that GTCR had earlier funded when they were private.

Bryan met his wife Christy in college; post graduation they packed their few worldly possessions in an old van and drove from Seattle to

Laureates 2016



*"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give."*
— **Winston Churchill**

Boston. Having no money they visited every relative across the country for sustenance. They now have three wonderful daughters and one granddaughter.

Bryan's philanthropic activities have included serving on the Lake Forest Board of Trustees and being the lead donor to their new Cressey Center for the Arts. He serves on the executive committee of Junior Achievement, and has been the Chairman of the Adler Planetarium. He was the lead donor to Cathedral Shelter's Cressey House, which provides housing and counseling for persons recovering from addiction, seeking education and jobs. Bryan also serves as a member of the Dean's Advisory Board at Harvard Law School, and recently founded Above and Beyond, which provides addiction treatment services to the poor and homeless on Chicago's West side.

Bryan received a Healthcare Lifetime Achievement award from HCPEA and was inducted into Chicago's Entrepreneurial Hall of Fame. He looks forward to helping improve our world through the charitable organizations he works with, as well as building Cressey and Company into the premier healthcare investing firm founded on teamwork, integrity and strong relationships with its management teams.