



Sam Bennardo worked with valve actuators, a small but key mechanism that opens and closes valves in anything from water treatment plants to food factories and pipelines. Like the actuators that he helped to produce, Sam was a key component in his community, as well as at Shaler North Hills Library and at North Hills Community Outreach.

Sam passed away unexpectedly in February 2017 at age 65. He lived in Shaler with his wife, Linda, where they raised three sons. Sam's family named NHCO as a recipient of donations in his memory.

Sam served as an NHCO board member during a time of significant growth for the organization, from 2002 to 2008, when flooding twice ravaged Millvale and other communities. After his board term, Sam continued to serve on NHCO's Finance Committee till his death – at total of 15 years, which included the Great Recession of 2008-09. More families in the North Hills than ever needed help during these times, and Sam was there to serve with compassion and without judgement.

"Sam was a great advocate for NHCO and the families in need. He was always supporting our fund raisers," remembered a staff member. "He brought friends to fill tables at our dessert theatres, and managed a group order each year for our citrus sale."

Another person noted that Sam also realized the importance of supporting those who work the front lines every day, serving families in need. "He was a great advocate for staff and for staff benefits. He was just a great guy with a really big heart."

*Thank you Sam
for your service to families in need*