

*Note: C12 is about community, which is why we meet in our forums. However, there is a broader community of C12 members throughout North Texas. Look for a series of introductions that you can use to get to know others that share the bonds of C12. – Tom Hawes, Joe Galindo, Mike Gullatt, Tom O'Dwyer, Kevin Pate, Michelle Moore, Andrea Rodarte*

## **Meet Tom O'Dwyer**

Tom has been happily married for 45 years to Mary, his college sweetheart. They have three children and six grandchildren. Tom, Mary, and all their children are Aggie Grads. Corey and her husband, Isaac, have two children, Isaac and Laurie. Shay and her husband, Marcus, have a daughter, Mary Ryan. Ryan and his wife, Jenny, have three children, Molly, Katie, and Thomas Ryan III, nicknamed Trip. Tom was raised Catholic, and Mary was Episcopalian. They spent 30 years attending Northwest Bible Church, then left ten years ago to launch and become part of a church plant from Africa, All Saints Anglican Church, pastored by Tom's childhood friend.



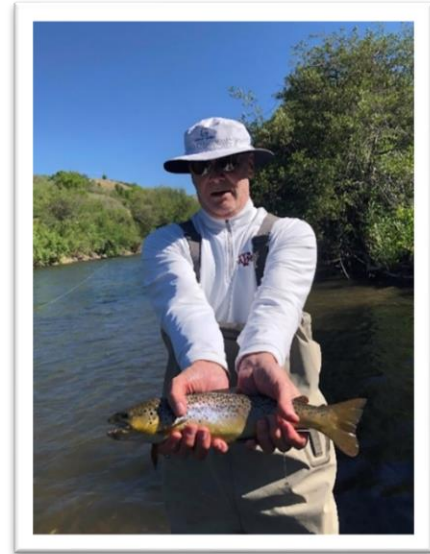
Tom grew up in Dallas, played football for Highland Park High School, and played for Texas A&M. He has been a C12 Chair since 2007 and currently facilitates three Business Forums in Dallas.

## **What was your professional background before C12?**

I graduated from Texas A&M with an engineering degree and went to work for GE in a technical marketing training program in industrial sales in Houston. I spent three years traveling across the country for GE before returning to Dallas to work for my father, who owned a commercial electrical contracting firm (Ling, Oliver, and O'Dwyer Electric). After three years at LOOD, I began my 27-year career in the commercial real estate industry, joining Dallas-based firms; Lincoln Property Company, Southland Real Estate Resources, JPI Realty, and Argent Property Company.

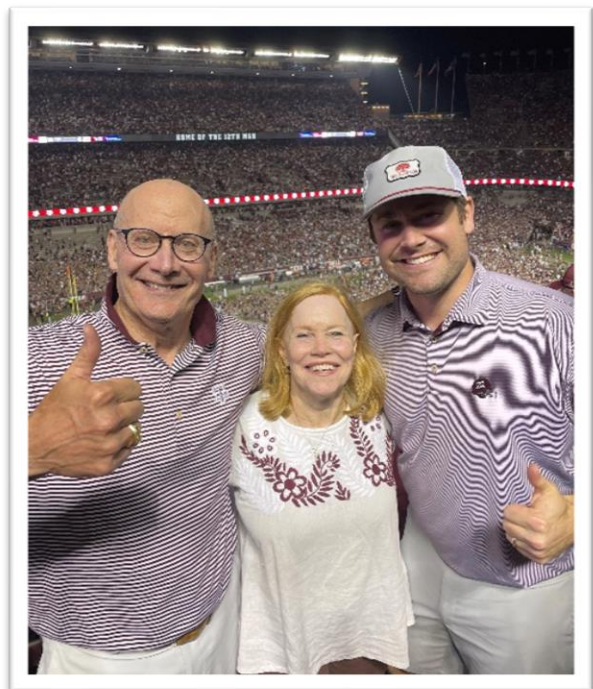
## How did you come to C12?

In the late 1980s and early 90s, I got caught up in the real estate depression in Dallas. The '86 tax law change impacted many people financially, including me. In the process of getting wiped out and recovering, my relationship with Christ moved to a whole different level. Emerging out of that time, I sensed that God was calling me to be missional in the marketplace. I continued in the real estate business, yet my interest was ever-growing to engage with people, especially business owners, about Christ and the role He intended to play in their personal and professional lives.



In mid-2007, a good friend and Dallas business leader invited me to attend a luncheon and presentation by Buck Jacobs (C12 Founder) and then CEO/President of C12, Don Barefoot. They explained C12 and issued a charge to those sitting around the conference table to consider the role of the C12 Chair. I knew at that moment that the entirety of my career, especially the most challenging and painful years, was used by God to equip and prepare me for a new calling in the marketplace as a C12 Chair. Mary affirmed and encouraged me to move forward.

I knew that to say "yes" was a step in obedience. C12 offered a position, and for nearly 15 years, I've been blessed to live out God's specific calling on my life. The role of a C12 Chair allows me to exercise my God-given skills and spiritual giftedness in a targeted way among Christian business owners, leaders, and influencers. Honestly, I awaken every morning amazed by the opportunity God has given me to serve as His ambassador among business leaders in the Dallas community. Truly, it hasn't felt like work. I hope to continue as long as God's call remains active and my energy is sustained.



## What kinds of things prepared you for being a C12 Chair?

My upbringing and career experiences introduced me to and helped me appreciate manufacturing, sales, sales management, industrial distribution, real estate development, and finance. I led and coached

business owners engaged in these various business and industry segments. Of course, I didn't realize before that God was sovereignly orchestrating the events of my life for this purpose. Among many experiences, my involvement in sports, including playing college football, informed my view of team sports, leadership, and position performance. Business is a team sport.

### **What do you most enjoy about your role as a C12 Chair?**

I like to go deep with people. I most enjoy getting to connect with people on a significantly relational level. Every day I feel like I fulfill the motivational desire that God placed in me to impact and influence the lives of those he has put in my pathway for him.

### **What are examples of members' spiritual growth you have witnessed?**

There is real genuine love and affection between my members and myself. We share a high level of deep appreciation for one another, not because we all agree on everything but because our relationship is rooted in who we are in Christ. The sign of spiritual growth is a new awareness of who we are, to whom we belong, and who we are in Christ. I observe people thinking differently than they did before. I get to witness members talking about the value of C12 and how it's made a difference in their life, both personally and professionally. The camaraderie among C12 Forum members breeds a deep sense of mutual trust, accountability, and encouragement to keep pressing on.



### **How have you seen C12 affect the businesses of members?**

I've observed member businesses utilizing C12's 5-point alignment matrix tool in their annual strategic business planning process to align their team and create a winning culture while operating profitably and making a difference in their communities.

### **What would you like your legacy to be in C12?**

I would like it to be said of me, "Above all, Tom pointed the way to Jesus."