

## **A Farewell to Danny**

It is with much regret that I report the recent loss of Danny Smith, owner of The Tremont for many years. Danny originally worked for Doris Saferight at her bar in West Palm Beach Florida as a bartender. In 1990 Doris was looking to sell "Le Tremont" and Danny decided to give bar ownership a try and we in the Central Ohio Gay Community are lucky he did. I had the privilege of working for Danny for 4 years back in the early 1990's and have witnessed his kindness and generosity first hand. He always treated me as an equal and a friend instead of just another employee. When we had the Tremont Ball Team, Danny was out there at our games rooting us on and would make sure we had a great meal waiting for us back at the bar whether we won or lost. Those were some of the best years of my life with a group of friends that were as close as we could be and Danny was there to party with us when he could.

While I worked for Danny I always noticed when he would come into the bar, after of course stopping to straighten the rug and adjust the lights, (we all have our little habits) he would take the time to stop and talk briefly with each customer who would be in there, genuinely taking an interest in what they had to say. If someone was a little down and out Danny did not hesitate to sympathize with their struggle.

Danny's favorite charity was Pater Noster House and over the years he donated thousands of dollars to help make Pater Noster an even better place than it was already. He not only would give a big check at his own bar parties but was known to go to other bar functions and donate money there as well.

Danny was a long time member and one of OCCO's biggest supporters. He joined back when he first arrived in 1991 and was one of the first bar owners to help sponsor our annual bar crawl and our highly successful Calendar Project. When we held our parties at Tremont he would make sure there was plenty of good food, played DJ for the entertainment portion, and would make his way around the room to see that all members were enjoying themselves. Knowing our parties were usually fundraisers for Pater Noster Danny would always be there with a large donation. Danny was a quiet man who did not like bringing attention to himself. But he deserves huge accolades for all his caring for others.

I personally will miss Danny very much. A large hole has been left in our Central Ohio Gay Community with the passing of Danny Smith. I never heard another bar owner say a negative word about him and I know every time the Tremont had an opening there was a list of people applying for the job. Although your time amongst us was cut way too short, thank you Danny for making Columbus a brighter place because of your caring and gentle nature.

You will be missed.