

“I’m a lawyer by profession, but a food banker at heart.”
—Yale Freeman

RECIPE FOR GIVING

BY CHRISTINA WELLS

He is a successful attorney running one of the state’s most recognized criminal law practices, but **Yale Freeman** also has another remarkable pursuit—volunteerism. “Although my wife, Susan, and I support numerous charities through financial contributions, my M.O. is to focus on a specific cause I believe in and make a long-term commitment of time,” he says.

Freeman sat on the board of the Harry Chapin Food Bank for 10 years, serving as president for half his tenure. He even took a yearlong sabbatical in 2002 and dedicated 100 percent of his time to the food bank. Projects completed include an infrastructure reorganization and Kids Café, which provides food to children in after-school programs. Freeman participated as well in forming its Alliance for Community Response that initiated plans for a new storage and distribution facility. “I’m a lawyer by profession, but a food banker at heart,” he says.

Also, Freeman is president of Temple Shalom and active in Legal Aid Service of Collier County and the Collier County Women’s Bar Association. Legal Aid recently announced he will receive the Lawyer of the Year award at the Barrister’s Bash late this month.

After Susan’s 2010 breast cancer diagnosis, he created Lawyers v. Breast Cancer, a campaign to raise awareness and funds for the American Cancer Society, which led to Lawyers v., a soon-to-be nonprofit that facilitates lawyer-based associations acting to support causes.

Philanthropy is undoubtedly a family affair. For two years, Susan chaired the public relations committee of the Naples’ American Cancer Society walk, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. Son Andrew works for a nonprofit agency that brings the arts to public schools in New Orleans. Daughter Allison lives in Naples and is on the staff of the American Cancer Society.

“Nothing is more important than setting an example for your children,” Freeman says. ♦

