

history of America when it has become more evident that business leaders have compromised their values by placing the bottom line ahead of all else. Our hope is that the Todd Thomas Institute will change the business leaders of tomorrow.

Shortly after my son's death I also founded LifePilot, a non-profit organization that offers workshops to help empower people to reach their potential. They do so by following what I have identified as the Five Foundations: Values, Focus, Visualization, Inspiration and Reflection. I think of these Foundations as pillars, like a support system that helps you stand tall, in good times and bad, and inspire you to realize the kind of life you thought was only in your dreams.

The Five Foundations have supported me tremendously throughout my life, along with thousands of others. For instance, my friend Alfredo J. Molina, Chairman and CEO of Molina Fine Jewelers and publisher of this magazine, has built a remarkable business with a family tradition of excellence that dates back to the Italian Renaissance. He did this, while overcoming many obstacles, through a combination of hard work, strong values and believing in his potential. Before he was a successful businessman, Alfredo visualized his Phoenix store out of what had previously been a parking lot. Today, Molina Fine Jewelers is housed in one of the city's most beautiful buildings, his business is thriving and he is one of the most well-respected in the industry. There is not a charitable organization in Arizona or in many major North American cities that has not received the benefit of Al and Lisa Molina's generosity.

You can read more about Alfredo and other success stories in my latest book *"Be Great: The Five Foundations of an Extraordinary Life in Business - and Beyond."* It's a collection of stories and advice from a variety of sources who reached their goals by being true to themselves.

Sticking to your values is the key. Whether you have lost your job, lost a loved one or simply feel the pressures

## ABOUT PETER H. THOMAS



Peter H. Thomas is one of the leading real estate developers and lenders of his time in North America, developing several billion dollars of projects including shopping centers, apartment and condominium developments, land assemblies, and golf courses. He is best known for his success as founder of Century 21 Real Estate Canada Ltd., Samoth Capital Corporation (now known as Sterling Centrecorp Inc.), and the development of the Four Seasons Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. After the tragic loss of his son in 2000, Peter decided to focus his time and energy on social entrepreneurship, and to share his experience and philosophy with others. He is the Founder and Chairman of LifePilot, the Founder and Chairman of the Todd Thomas Institute for Values-Based Leadership at Royal Roads University in BC, Canada, Chairman Emeritus of the Entrepreneurs' Organization (EO), and Vice-Chairman of the Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization (CEO). Peter and his wife Rita reside in Verbier, Switzerland.

of life weighing you down, I strongly recommend stepping back and re-examining your values. Then decide how you will push through. Employing and standing up for your values is the difference between being a leader or being a follower on your own path to success. It is a true measure of achievement.

As the late legendary musician Elvis Presley once said: "Values are like fingerprints. Nobody's are the same but you leave them all over everything you do."