Tintswalo's Gaye Corbett - an inspiration for her family

For some, success is measured by a healthy bank balance or a cabinet filled with awards. For Gaye Corbett, Chief Financial Officer of Tintswalo Property Group, success is not measured in material things; instead she defines it by how much value you bring to the world around you.

Just as important for the inspiring businesswoman and mother; is finding a balance between personal and private life. "Achievement and recognition comes with a responsibility to improve the world around you and if you want to live a balanced life, then you need to be able to celebrate both personal and professional success. I think that success comes from finding what you love and then finding a way to offer it to others in service. Working hard at our individual callings is what makes people so unique."

Successes listed by Corbett include helping her husband, Ernest, the ~~Chief Financial Officer~~ Chairman of Tintswalo Property Group, build a successful business, raising three children whose achievements she believes will overshadow her own and having spent her life giving back.

When asked how one becomes a woman of influence, Corbett responds, "I thought about it for a while before realising that there is no secret. It's simple really - the way you conduct your own life is the greatest influence and inspiration to the people around you."

Corbett's inspiring life is guided by the rules of exchange. She explains that there are four levels to her philosophy. The first she calls criminal exchange, where you take without giving back. Second is part exchange where you give back less than you receive; then fair exchange when you give only as much as you get.

"Finally there is exchange in abundance; giving exchange in abundance is the only guarantee for success. To flow out to others is far more rewarding in life than to flow in."

This is a philosophy that has followed Corbett throughout her life. While handing out books to children in Africa, she stumbled across two charitable organisations that have inspired her, Youth for Human Rights and the Way to Happiness. These organisations believe that bringing awareness and understanding of human rights is the route to building better people who will go on to build stronger communities. It is this simple idea that inspires Corbett's own charitable work of giving people the tools they need, offering them assistance and allowing them to build the world they want.

She believes in a helping hand rather than an open wallet and it is a message that influences the good works that she is a part of. Chutzpah and a desire to build a legacy is the foundation on which her family has built their success and she believes it is an important lesson to teach. "If you are not afraid of hard work and have a clear idea of what you want to achieve - married to persistence - you will win in the end. That's an easy enough lesson to teach and learn," she chuckles.

Corbett once dreamed of becoming a champion golfer but instead she tapped into her competitive nature to join her husband in creating a successful property development group. Thirty eight years after it's founding, the Tintswalo Property Group is still in family hands and the company operates on the Corbett family values – remain grounded no matter your success, care for your neighbours, and hard work is its own benefit.

"Tintswalo has always worked with a business model that recognises that our operations have an impact on our surrounding communities, and with the acknowledgement that we also need to pay our success forward in some way," she continues.

Although, Corbett has stepped away from an active role in Tintswalo, she admits that when she looks back at her achievements she can smile at a fulfilled life.

"Family, good books and good works increase your knowledge of life. That's the way I would describe a well lived life," she concludes.

And who would argue with such an inspiring woman?

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