2009 Award Recipient

Robert E. Hart '79

Bob Hart, you exemplify the WPI ideal of creating positive change in the world. As chair of the Board of Directors of Chrysalis, you are leading an effort to improve the human condition in Los Angeles County. In its 25 years, Chrysalis has helped more than 30,000 people out of homelessness and poverty and onto a path toward self-sufficiency. In its three centers in downtown Los Angeles, Santa Monica, and the San Fernando Valley, Chrysalis provides facilities and services that are critical to helping people out of poverty, including job readiness and retention programs, and workshops and mentoring within its women's group. In addition, the innovative Chrysalis Enterprises offers staffing, street maintenance, cleaning, and recycling services to businesses and government agencies while also providing transitional jobs and valuable work experience to those who need it most.

You were aptly chosen to lead this organization, as your career is an example of reinvention. After earning your degree at WPI, you began a career as a sales engineer. With an MBA from UCLA's Anderson Graduate School of Management, you changed your professional direction to business development and then to real estate development. You served as director of business development at The Disney Channel before moving on to executive positions at Executive Life Insurance Company Enhancement Trusts and Heitman Capital Management, and to your current position as senior managing director at Kennedy Wilson, an international real estate services fund with offices all over the continental United States, Hawaii, and Japan.

At Chrysalis, you use your experience to provide vital leadership to an organization that has helped so many transform their lives. As its name suggests, Chrysalis helps people emerge from poverty, spread their wings, and take flight. You play an important role in those transformations.

Bob Hart, in recognition of your efforts to create positive change in the world and improve the lives of others, we proudly present you with the WPI Humanitarian Leadership Award.