

## 2017 WALKS OF LIFE HONOREES

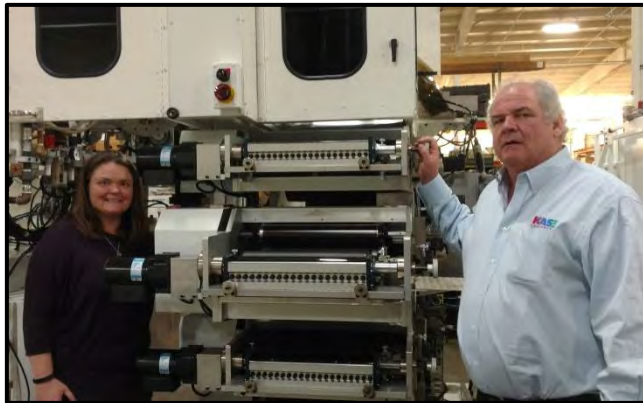
### Kase Equipment

(Hawkins Family)

When the Edward Conry Hawkins family purchased Kase Equipment Corp. from Victor Eggert in 1983, Edward's son, Patrick Hawkins, returned to a familiar place. Patrick had worked briefly for the company after graduating from St. Ignatius High School.

Edward Hawkins, a lawyer and certified public accountant, had represented the company prior to the acquisition. Following the purchase, Patrick initially worked in the company's factory in Willoughby. A year later, he began to assist Victor Eggert in sales, rebuilding the company's product line and seeking new customers.

Unfortunately, that same year Victor had to curb his daily activities after suffering a heart attack.



The following year, Patrick became president of Kase Equipment, which designs and builds dry-offset printing machinery for printing on pre-formed plastic containers, lids and closures, such as plastic five gallon pails, plastic drinking cups, plastic bottle caps for beverages, and plastic containers for yogurt, cottage cheese and other dairy products.

Since 1983, the company has grown from 18 employees and \$1 million in sales to 50 employees and \$8 million in sales. In the year 2000, the company moved into a new 80,000-square-foot facility in Valley View. As the company grew, more and more of its sales were outside the United States. Now, about half of Kase Equipment's machines are sold internationally and can be found on every continent with the exception of Antarctica. In an ever-evolving market, Kase Equipment continues to adapt, as the engineering staff designs and builds new types of machinery for decorating plastic packaging.

Patrick, who graduated from John Carroll University with a finance degree in 1981, is one of eight children of Edward and Dorothy Walton Hawkins. The family's Irish heritage dates back more than 150 years to Counties Galway and Mayo. Patrick and his wife, Megg, have six children, and his daughter Kelly works with him at the company.

*Above: Edward Conry Hawkins. Below: Daughter Kelly Hawkins, with her father Patrick Hawkins, standing before a printing machine produced by Kase Equipment. .*