

## Bellevue Public Schools



## Alumni Spotlight



# Brian Fox

## Bellevue West, 2000

Bellevue West graduate Brian Fox is the owner-operator of Cornhusker Auto Wash - Bellevue's original full-service car wash. He also runs two other businesses on the same corner of 25th and Cornhusker: Cornhusker Express Lube and Cornhusker Quick Stop. Read about Brian's journey, his challenges in operating a business in 2023, and the advice he has for current BPS students.

### What high school did you attend, and when did you graduate?

I attended Bellevue West and graduated in 2000.

### Who was your favorite teacher?

My all-time favorite teacher was Jim Jennings. He taught Business and much of what he taught me about business, I implement in my work every single day.

### Were you involved in any sports or clubs?

I played football, wrestled, ran track, and was a powerlifter.

### Did you have a favorite place to hang out?

During school and between passing periods, I really enjoyed being social in the commons. Some great memories were made there.

### Did you have siblings that graduated from Bellevue schools?

I had a brother, Curt, who graduated from Bellevue West in 1997. I had the privilege of attending Bellevue West with him and playing football with him for one year. Unfortunately, Curt passed away in 2012. Both of my parents also graduated from Bellevue High School.

### Where did you attend college, what was your major, and when did you graduate?

I attended Concordia University on a football scholarship out of high school and studied Education. I transferred home after two years, attended Bellevue University to finish my Bachelors Degree and graduated with a degree in Criminal Justice. I also earned my Masters Degree from Bellevue University in Social Services. Most recently I earned a Certificate in Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare-Multi-System Integration from Georgetown University in Washington D.C.

### What did you do after college?

I worked at Boys Town for 12 years. I started out by mowing lawns at Boys Town, bought into the mission at Boys Town, and worked my way up through the organization in various leadership roles. I spent my last seven years as a Director of their In-Home Family Services division in Iowa service child abuse cases in the 30 counties of Western Iowa.

## Could you give a history of Cornhusker Auto Wash and its importance to your family?

Cornhusker Auto Wash opened its doors in February of 1986. My grandfather Ray built the business along with my dad Mark. At that time, the full-service carwash model was unheard of. Many thought that Ray was taking a major risk of turning the vacant land into a full-service carwash. From 1986 to 2012, my Grandfather Ray, father Mark, and brother Curt all ran the business.

When Curt died in 2012, and Ray dying just 6 months later, I left my career at Boys Town to help Dad run the businesses while he coped with the death of his son and father. Unfortunately, Dad was then diagnosed with Dementia and ultimately had to be moved to a Memory Support level of care in a nursing home. I now own and operate all of our businesses with Ray, Mark, and Curt on my mind every single day.





Cornhusker Auto Wash is known by many as one of the more generous businesses in Bellevue. What is your thought process regarding this?

I view business as a true community service. I am not in business for my family and me. I am in business for our employees, customers, and our community. Every decision that is ever made on this corner is based on the best interest of YOU, not ME. As tough as times are for so many right now, choosing PEOPLE over PROFITS only seems right.

Do you have a rough idea how many complimentary car washes Cornhusker Auto Wash has given away in the last year? How about since opening?

Cornhusker Auto Wash, Cornhusker Quick Stop, and Cornhusker Express Lube have historically donated over \$50,000 per year back to its schools, charities, and causes. Since COVID in 2020, we have increased our donation totals to well over \$90,000 donated each year.





## What are some of the services Cornhusker offers that the general public may not know about?

Most people know that we are a full-service and express exterior carwash. But we also offer no-hassle oil changes, express and premium detailing, auto remote start installation, new car packages at a fraction of the price that dealers would charge, and we are also a WeatherTech Distributor. We offer bodily fluid cleanup and disinfecting services. Also, super-random, but we have the best greeting cards in Sarpy County!

We own the Shell Gas Station on site (Cornhusker Quick Stop) and we also have a Cornhusker Auto Wash and Cornhusker Express Lube in Fremont, Nebraska.

## What is the most challenging thing about owning a business?

The biggest challenges come from OPERATING the businesses. My job as the Owner is easy. The real challenges are what my amazing Management Team in each business face to adequately staff their business to ensure a high quality of service is provided 100% of the time. It's hard to recruit new staff and it's hard to retain staff with us living in such a competitive work environment. This is a daily challenge faced by our Managers and I want to give all the credit in the world to them for fighting hard to find and keep great people. We have some amazing people on this corner and we are always looking to add more great people.

## Could you share a little bit about your family?

I am happily married to my amazing wife Nicole. We were high school sweethearts and we have four amazing children. Nicole is also a graduate of Bellevue Public Schools and works for Bellevue Public Schools as an Administrator. All of our children attend Bellevue Public Schools.

## Is there anything else you'd like to add?

If you are only in business to make money, then that's bad business.

## What advice do you have for current students in Bellevue Public Schools?

Start building your resume and post-graduation skill sets now. Get a job, even on a part-time basis. Develop quality social skills and use work opportunities to develop your employability and customer service skills. As competitive as the job market is after graduating high school, those with good social skills, work ethic, and sustained work history will be chosen over those without these skills.

## Links

Cornhusker Auto Wash website

<https://cornhuskerautowash.com/>

Cornhusker Express Lube Website:

<https://cornhuskerexpresslube.com/>

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## About Us

The Alumni Spotlight is a recurring feature on the Alumni Association Facebook Page. If you know of a Bellevue graduate that we should shine the spotlight on, please reach out to us at [bps.alumni@bpsne.net](mailto:bps.alumni@bpsne.net) and they will be considered for a future column. Continue to invite your friends and family to Like and Follow our Alumni Association page: <https://www.facebook.com/BPSAlumni>

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