



lar line of motivational books and audio programs.

This chicken soup millionaire learned the hard way that the road to success is not always smooth. Hansen found himself bankrupt at age 26, living off peanut butter sandwiches and sleeping on the floor of a friend's apartment. An audiocassette of inspirational messages by Cavett Robert, the "Dean of Inspirational Speakers," helped convince him that "My life, my bankruptcy, and my misery were all created by me, and all of them could be uncreated by me."

He has since taken his message of success to the masses, celebrating the virtues of wealth and entrepreneurship. Philanthropy is another core value for this Illinois native. "When you get rich, you have the freedom to go out and serve

others," he explains. "The spiritual law is that you give and then you receive. Then, all kinds of mystical things happen. Every time you give, the minimum return is tenfold. That's not my law; it's God's law—regardless of your religion."

Hansen has devoted a great deal of his time and energy to the creation of the Three Percent Club, a network of one million millionaires who collectively channel their financial and creative resources to help improve the world. He encourages publishers to help re-forest the planet, for example, replacing the resources that have helped them earn their own wealth; and in the same spirit, he has donated a portion of the sales of each Chicken Soup volume to a different charity. To date, 75 organizations, from Habitat for Humanity to the Boys and Girls Club of America, have

benefited from Hansen's generosity. "You can't lead a full life without wealth," he acknowledges, "but being able to give it away is the greatest reward. You need to give it away with wisdom."

Recognition for that wisdom came recently when Hansen received the 2000 Horatio Alger Award. The National Conference for Community and Justice also honored him with the 1999 Humanitarian of the Year Award, previously given to Mother Theresa and Nelson Mandela.

From bankruptcy to incredible financial success, Mark Victor Hansen has learned the rewards of giving back. He has reached the pinnacle of his career and is eager to share his success with others. He is a leader, a dreamer, and a visionary for the new millennium—and that's not just chicken soup. ♣

