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I am Co-Founder of Comfort Research, a company I started in 1996 while I was a Junior at Hope College along with my good friend, Co-Founder and current business partner, Chip George.

Our first product was a new style of bean bag filled with shredded foam, originally called the Poof Chair and currently known as the Fuf Chair (long story...but we lost that battle.) We started our company by selling our Poof Chairs directly to college students during welcome week at colleges and universities around the Midwest, as well as at a store we owned and managed at a local mall.

By the time we graduated we had a little bit of sales and not much to lose, so we went for it and pursued our dream of building a company full time.

We still sell that original chair along with bean bags, pool noodles, outdoor furniture, kid's toys and more. Now, 25 years later, we have sold more than 30+ million products all across the world to some of the world's best retailers and created \$1B+ in retail sales for our customers.

I don't know if it is unique to our community, or if it is something bigger than that, but during the course of my career I have been lucky enough to run into countless people that were, and are, willing to help Chip and I on our entrepreneurial journey in ways both large and small, with no expectation of anything in return. And that is awesome. I am eternally grateful to a whole host of people.

I am now leveraging my experience into my next venture, Orange Dot. Orange Dot Ventures, LLC is a private equity firm focused on manufacturing, distribution, and service businesses. This is not the typical private equity firm because I am not a banker or finance guy...I am an entrepreneur. I look to build business. And that is what Orange Dot does.

The values of Orange Dot tie to my own values which are:

1. Dream Big
2. Take Action
3. Make a Difference

I love dreaming big and I love others that have big dreams too! But dreams without action are called fantasies. I put dreams into action to make a difference in the world through business.