

Our view: Randy and Paula Ringhaver 'quiet giving' helps so many

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Insurance executive Mark Bailey still likes to remind people that Randy Ringhaver knows how to drive the big Caterpillar machines that Ring Power Corp. sells. "I am very impressed," Bailey said. He recalled the groundbreaking for the new Bailey Family Center for Caring of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida. Ringhaver came around the corner of Flagler Hospital in command of a powerful earth mover to help formally break the ground.

There were smiles among the audience Thursday at the Caring Hands-Caring Community Celebration of Caring when Bailey, Bayview Healthcare president, told that story. Many were at Flagler Hospital in September 2009 when Ringhaver appeared at the controls and surprised many in the audience with his skill.

Thursday, Randy and Paula Ringhaver were honored as the 2011 Community Service Award recipients.

Bayview Healthcare/St. Johns Welfare Federation is in its 90th year. The Caring Hands-Caring Community Celebration of Caring is Bayview's annual fundraiser.

The Ringhavers, as noted by longtime friends Bailey, Deborah Miller and Eddie Creamer, are quiet givers. They just do what they think anyone else would do in their situation; help however they can.

And help they do. Ringhaver is chairman and president of Ring Power Corp., longtime Caterpillar dealer throughout the southeastern United States. He and Paula have shared their time and means with many nonprofit organizations throughout the state and especially in Northeast Florida. The Ringhaver family's community giving in a quiet manner goes back to Ringhaver's parents: L.C. "Ring" and Elaine, who set that example of helping others for their sons, Lance and Randy.

Among the civic organizations and community boards Randy and Paula Ringhaver have served are the Jacksonville Port Authority, Community Hospice of Northeast Florida, Junior Achievement, Flagler College, Flagler Hospital, Dreams Come True, Otis Smith Foundation, St. Augustine Cancer Society and No More Homeless Pets.

The program notes for the Community Service Award said, their company "fits the description of unsung hero and role model business. That is due to its ever so quiet, but ever so effective support of civic causes and charities throughout Northeast Florida.Ring Power isn't inclined to announce how many dollars it donates annually to area charities. It is safe to say it's a big number and (Ring Power) often matches its employees contributions at either a 50 percent or 100 percent level."

Upon accepting the Community Service Award, Randy Ringhaver said he regretted that all of his employees could not be there because it is their award. "They help make what we do possible."

We thank Randy and Paula Ringhaver and Ring Power's employees for their big hearts and open arms.