

2007 Business Award Recipient

TyRex Group

TyRex Manufacturing is a full manufacturing service and, technology solutions provider specializing in the high-tech industry with world-class and worldwide procurement and manufacturing capabilities. TyRex is a complete technology "Idea to Market" concept.

TyRex has developed several creative employee programs such as the Guiding Principle, an employee Bill of Rights, and a Circle of Business Trust program that aligns the success of employees to their teams and then to the customer. They encourage employee growth through the Street Smart MBA program, safety and harassment prevention training, and a Community Citizenship program.

TyRex is so committed to employees getting involved in the community, that a portion of an employee's bonus plan is linked back to their participation in community projects. When you go to work for TyRex, you are asked to be part of the solution. You are asked to help create an organization in which you can have pride. The TyRex corporate culture is an inclusive culture based upon teamwork. An employee states "we are constantly looking to balance the economic prosperity in our company with our community and with our partners in business".

2007 Non Profit Award Recipient

Austin Habitat for Humanity

Austin Habitat for Humanity's mission is to work in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to put their faith in action by building affordable, quality houses with families in need to eliminate poverty housing, one family at a time.

Austin Habitat for Humanity strives to:

- Build simple, decent, affordable homes in a way that optimizes volunteers, partner families, and commercial resources
- Empower partner families to break the cycle of poverty housing through education, skill development, and mentoring to become successful homeowners
- Build a spirit of volunteerism by providing volunteer experiences and encouraging philanthropy

Austin Habitat for Humanity gives families who have no other hope of ever owning their own home the opportunity to achieve their dreams. The research showed that not only is Austin Habitat for Humanity a respected organization with stakeholders, congregations, businesses, volunteers and clients, but there was not a single employee who didn't love their job.

2007 Individual Award Recipient

Rose Lancaster

Rose Lancaster is on the board and one of the founding members of Front Steps, the organization that manages the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless. She is also currently a Board Member of the Capital Area Homeless Alliance, Foundation for the Homeless, City of Austin Community Health Centers, the Trull Foundation, and the Community Action Network. Rose has had many activities and titles throughout her years serving the community. She initiated a preschool that just had its 37th year anniversary, Extend-A-Care, Inc. This was an after school program in a small church that has developed into a thirty-five center enterprise serving over 1,000 children. Rose was very active in the desegregation of schools and was President of the League of Women Voters. She oversaw border ministries as the President of Presbyterian Boarder Corporation. She was the Executive Director of Manos de Cristo, on the board of Austin Area Interreligious Ministries and last but not least—a founding board member of the Samaritan Counseling Center.

Some people garner respect because they hold a position or because they have money. Rose gains respect because she tirelessly strives for justice while listening and respecting others. She has gone to South American countries to watch the voting polls to help ensure they are safe and fair. She has gone to Cuba to help improve their health care. Rose has always believed that Downtown Austin should be for all people—including the homeless and has steadfastly maintained the reduction of mental health services combined with flat wages for low-income people and rising housing and medical costs are creating homelessness. On cold nights, Rose opens the doors of her church for overflow from the shelters. She and her husband cook dinner for the homeless people and sleep on mats on the floor.

Rose is respected not only by those she touches with her work and her passion, but by government officials as well. She has had 3 former Mayors, Gus Garcia, Frank Cooksey and Kirk Watson, host a recognition event in her honor. Rose's entire life has been about making a personal sacrifice of time, money, and personal success to make the ethical choice.