



December 2011

Local Business Woman Honored with River Heights Chamber of Commerce's Forrest Glewwe Visions of Excellence Award

The Forrest Glewwe Visions of Excellence Award is given to an individual whose contributions have made a lasting impression on our communities.

The award originated in 1986 for the purpose of honoring an individual who has applied themselves completely to the principles of entrepreneurship, ethics and corporate citizenship.

The 2011 recipient holds all of these qualities. Nancy Fish took a chance and started Bywords Printing in July 1981. Prior to moving her business to SSP, Bywords was located on Grand Avenue and Nancy was active with GABA (Grand Avenue Business Association), and ran the Grand Old Days Parade for many years.

Nancy is married to Jerry Payne and although they do not have any children, they do have a love for animals, especially Boxer dogs. Nancy is a member of the Boxer Rescue organization and prints their calendar as a fundraiser.

Upon moving their business to SSP in November 1994, Nancy and Jerry immediately became involved with Kaposia Days. In 1995 she was elected to the Board and served as a director until 2000. She served as Director of Children's Activities, growing the event into a major activity, initiating the infamous Baby Races. Nancy would spend all year looking through catalogs for unique, fun toys for the kids. Nancy and her husband Jerry Payne built and stored year-round about 20 children's carnival games, recruited 30-40 volunteers to help run event and printed t-shirts every year for the whole crew. They priced the tickets so that all children could participate, no matter their economic status.

Bywords printing joined the River Heights Chamber of Commerce in November 1994 and has been active ever since. Bywords Printing was honored with the Chamber's Small Business of the Year Award in 1999 for their job creation, sound fiscal management and community commitment. Nancy has served on the Chamber Board of Directors and Executive Committee, and was Chair of the Board in 2005. Bywords has also been an investor in Progress Plus since 2006, and they support its economic development initiatives

Nancy is also very involved with the Osman Shrine Women and works round the clock preparing toys for and ushering at the Osman Shrine Circus. Her basement is a treasure trove of kid's toys. She also publishes the organization's monthly newsletter and recently won a national award for the publication. Nancy has served on the Town Square Television non-profit board of directors since 2007 and has held leadership roles on the executive committee, board recruitment committee, and marketing committee.

Nancy is a strong community person, always coming to the rescue to help out an organization or solve a printing issue. One example of her dedication to her clients is when she formatted and printed a 16-page, color program booklet for the IGH Royalty Coronation with one day's notice, working late into the night to have it done the next morning.

Being in the printing business, she is continually asked to donate printing projects or do them at cost, and she rarely says, "no." The River Heights Chamber of Commerce and local business community honors Nancy for her dedication that has made a lasting impression!

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