

2007 HONOREE

TOP FORTY UNDER 40



Robert Andrews II, 36

**President
Andrews Roofing Co. Inc.**

Although Robert Andrews II is head of a company of more than 30 and takes on leadership commitments with gusto, he is most comfortable in the background, far from the limelight. Congratulations for his "40 Under 40" honor, in fact, makes him squirm a bit.

"I don't want to come across with pride, I'm just thankful for what I have," said the Portsmouth native who now lives in Suffolk. "We 40 have an obligation to use our tools and gifts for the greater good, to make the world a better place. We are conduits."

Andrews walks the talk. With the Portsmouth Volunteers for the Homeless, he serves meals at a shelter where he also does "whatever else they need me to do." To the Crisis Pregnancy Center of Tidewater, a cause near and dear to his heart, Andrews donates goods and money through his sponsorship of the group's fund-raisers. And he and his wife Dawn, who are the parents of three daughters aged 6 years, 19 months and 6 months, participate in a marriage ministry called Winning At Relationships.

Andrews is not just a weekend Samaritan. Good deeds, he says, should also blend quietly into everyday life.

"You don't need a ministry with a corporate identity," he said. "You don't have to look far to find an opportunity to help. You can just listen to someone who's hurting."

At the roofing company where his father Bob is second in command, Andrews is sensitive to the needs of his workers. Many of his lead employees are OSHA-certified and all workers must participate in a comprehensive training program. He surprises his workers with on-the-job safety inspections.

Andrews was only in his mid 20s when he started his small company. It has grown at what he calls a "slow and healthy rate," thanks to the good people he has on board, especially his dad, whom he calls one of his spiritual mentors. He is also grateful to his lifelong friend Jody Pegram, who invited Andrews into his startup roofing business when Andrews was fresh out of college. Pegram was legally blind then and since, his vision has worsened.

"If it weren't for him, I wouldn't have done what I did," said Andrews, who, as usual, would rather shine the spotlight elsewhere.

- Mary Flachsenhaar