**HOME HELPERS**

**Winner of the John D. “Pete” Sterrett 2015 Small Business of the Year Award**

Gail and Randy Stathers opened their Home Helpers franchise business in September 2006, providing in-home care for seniors and those facing life challenges.  It has been their goal to ***make life easier*** for our senior population, to maximize their independence and to allow them to age safely in place at the home of their choice.  Services can range from companionship, errands and transportation, light housekeeping, shopping, laundry assistance, to assistance with bathing, dressing, transferring and personal care needs at all levels.  Their agency has grown based on quality care, consistency and flexibility.  Days and hours of service are client choice and services can be as little as two hour visits up to and including twenty-four hours a day.  Soon after opening, the need for affordable wheelchair transportation was realized and Gail and Randy purchased two wheelchair capable vans for their client’s transportation needs.

In addition to Home Helpers, the Stathers also offer the Direct Link personal emergency response systems, fall sensors and medication dispensers.

Home Helpers grew from a start-up business to over a million dollars in revenue in only 4 years. Their sales continue on an upward trend, but they are most proud of the people that they are able to help and the reputation that they have gained in the home care community. Within the nationwide Home Helper’s community, the Yorktown franchise run by the Stathers has been awarded the Shooting Star Award (2009), the President’s Award (2011) and in 2012, they were recognized by the International Franchise Association as Franchisee of the Year. Home Helpers currently employs more than 85 quality caregivers and staff in a constantly changing industry and they are proud to call Yorktown their home.  Gail is also on the Board of Directors for the *Virginia Association of Personal Care Providers* and is politically active in support of small business and the health care industry.

It is with great pleasure that Gail and Randy have chosen Polly Fulwider and Cathy Colbert to accept the award for Home Helpers tonight.  Polly has been with Home Helpers since their beginning in 2006 and has earned her PCA, CNA and RN while working with Home Helpers and their clients.   Cathy Colbert , joined Home Helpers in 2007 with combined duties of caregiving and marketing.  Cathy continues with the dual responsibilities and is the face of Home Helpers at all marketing and networking events.  Both Polly and Cathy represent the quality that Home Helpers continually strives to deliver.