

RMC PRESENTS CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY OF YEAR TO HIGH TECH

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PHOTO: High Tech partners Jim Harr, Scott Chartier, and Kevin Hintt.
(Photo/Courtesy High Tech Construction)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – The Rocky Mountain College Corporate Philanthropist of the Year Award will be presented to High Tech Construction, in the Great Hall of Prescott Commons, at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 27, 2009.

“This is the first year that we are expanding the annual award Rocky Mountain College presents for philanthropy to include a corporate philanthropist of the year award. For vigilant efforts to uplifting the community, from constructing great buildings to constructing good works, it is an honor to present this year’s Rocky Mountain College Corporate Philanthropy of the Year Award to High Tech Construction,” said RMC President Michael Mace.

Jim Haar, Scott Chartier and the late Dick Popelka founded High Tech in 1984. Rather than name the company after themselves, they chose a name to represent the application of advanced technological solutions to construction, but also because they wanted a name that continued beyond the time of the initial owners.

When Popelka retired in 2000, Kevin Hintt came on board, followed, in Bozeman, with Brian Bolton coming on board as a stockholder with the start up of High Tech’s Bozeman office.

High Tech purchased a controlling interest in KWN Construction in Sheridan, Wyoming in 2005 as part of the firm’s desire to maintain a growing, active organization.

The name stuck.

For High Tech, growth has been steady for 25 years. At first, retail construction was the niche. The company built major retail stores in six states in the Rocky Mountain region. Then the company, with expertise in health care construction and construction for retirement and nursing case facilities, grew that part of the business. The company also

started Pyramid Cabinet Shop, building custom cabinetry primarily for the commercial and institutional market.

The firm's reputation has grown because of its high profile involvement in some of the community's most iconic architecture. You cannot drive in and around Billings without noticing their work. Let me name a few: Denny Menholt Frontier Chevrolet and Hummer; Lockwood Middle School; Billings Trauma Center, Family Birth Center and Research Facility; St. Vincent Healthcare Emergency Department, Newborn Intensive Care Unit and the Labor and Delivery areas; Big Bear; the campus of St. John's Lutheran Ministries, including Mission Ridge, the Vista and the Memory Care and Nursing Cottages; and, of course, on our campus, the new Morledge – Kimball Hall.

While the company business grew, so did the company's involvement in public and private service and philanthropy. They have been engaged personally and professionally in the community. The firm's employees have served as board members and leaders of civic organizations, from the Chamber of Commerce, to the Builders Exchange; from ZooMontana to First Interstate Bank.

High Tech has generously helped support the Billings Clinic Classic; the St. John's Summer Concert Series; the St. Vincent Healthcare's Saints Ball, as well as the Heart & Sole Run and Relay for Life; and our own Black Tie Blue Jeans Scholarship Benefit.

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