

Executives who go the extra mile win appreciation, respect

BY MARILYN BOWDEN

Executives who go the extra mile to give of themselves through personal involvement in the community win appreciation and respect from their peers — but these executives say giving is its own reward.



Jeffrey A. Rynor

Jeffrey A. Rynor, a partner at the Miami Beach law firm Mitrani, Rynor, Adamsky & Toland, is "a dynamo," said Gene C. Sulzberger, senior vice president at PRS Investment Advisory.

"He is great! He sits on several boards, and he has a great life philosophy. I have nothing but respect for him and the work he does for our community.

"When I served with him on the Vizcayans board, I was impressed with his levelheadedness and his always thinking about the community at large. Ethical leadership and a positive attitude are hallmarks of his work in the community."

Mr. Rynor's areas of concentration include matrimonial and civil litigation, and he has been named one of South Florida's Top Lawyers in these areas in the South Florida Legal Guide every year since 2004. Since 2006, he's also been named one of Florida Trend's "Legal Elite."

He serves on the Board of Directors of the Dade County Bar Association, and is past chair of its By-Laws and Matrimonial Law committees; he served on the Florida Bar Grievance Committee from 1986 to 1989 and is past chair of the Florida Bar's Equal Opportunities in the Profession Committee. He was also on the editorial board of the Dade County Bar Bulletin from 1989 to 1990.

Outside his profession, Mr. Rynor serves on the Board of Directors of the Central Agency for Jewish Education, is president of Temple Emanuel and serves on the executive committee and Board of Directors of The Hebrew Academy. He is past chair of the Vizcaya Museum and Gardens and Trust, past president of the Vizcayans and past president of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Miami.

He has long served on the board of the Miami Beach Senior High Alumni Association, and is currently its president.

"When it comes to causes," Mr. Rynor said, "I like to be involved in a variety of areas. I've always enjoyed education and children's issues, as well as the arts and, of course, legal aid. I am also involved in medical



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Green Day in 2011 and the Bike Festival in early 2012."

Community involvement, Mr. Christensen said, "helps give balance to your life."

As a member of the Green Task Force, he said, he recruited several sponsors for the Earth Day event, from banks to food vendors to green product manufacturers.

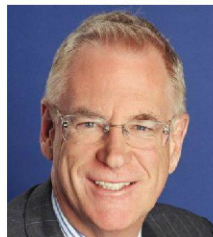
"The environment is an area of interest of mine," he said. "We encourage people in our law firm to be involved, but it's always been my motto that people should choose to be involved in something they want to do."

In addition to the environment, history is "dear to my heart," Mr. Christensen said, as is Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.

He also supports the Yes Institute, founded as a means of trying to prevent teenage suicide through education through schools and in the community.

"Suicide is the second-largest cause of death among teens, after car accidents," Mr. Christensen said. "It goes hand and hand with bullying."

Elaine Adler has spent 21 years at the Aventura Marketing Council helm, now with the second generation.



Involvement "helps give balance to your life": Bruce Christensen.

causes. For example, I support the Ronald McDonald House financially, because I think one of the great ways to give back is to help those who have helped you in the past.

"In fact, last Christmas Day my family and I helped to prepare lunch for families that were staying there because they had children receiving treatment at Jackson Memorial."

Getting involved in charity is a win-win, Mr. Rynor said; it benefits both giver and receiver.

"The Hebrew world for 'giving' means both 'to give' and 'to receive,'" he said. "That really describes my motivation. If, for example, I help a 12-year-old boy through Big Brothers Big Sisters, the fact that as a result he makes changes in his life may be even more rewarding for me than it is for him."

Maxine Lopez, vice president of Airston, former president of BOMA Miami-Dade and a City of Miami "Green Commissioner," points to Elaine Adler's 21 years of involvement in the business community of Aventura at the helm of the Aventura Marketing Council.

"She has grown the organization from a small, homegrown group to a large, powerful, politically connected organization," Ms. Lopez said. "Elaine is hands-on with her membership, making sure that they're networking,

learning, bonding and expanding their potential both in business and their personal lives.

"Energetic, dynamic and caring, Elaine Adler is the consummate professional."

"I wouldn't be doing this if I didn't enjoy it," Ms. Adler said. "I love what I do, and I am very fortunate to have wonderful members and a spectacular board of directors. That's the bottom line."

She said she is now working with the children of the Aventura Marketing Council's original members, "helping businesses survive and do business with one another. I get tremendous satisfaction from seeing others do well."

For the past three years, she said, the council has become increasingly involved with the military by finding employment for returning soldiers.

"There are so few jobs," she said. "We reached out all over Miami-Dade and Broward, and we've done pretty darn good. A whole bunch of them have been hired."

Richman Greer family law

attorney Bruce Christensen is very involved in the Coral Gables community, said architect Jorge Bernal, an associate with RTKL Associates who was impressed by Mr. Christensen's concern about the environmental aspects of his firm's new office space.

"He is a volunteer member of the City of Coral Gables' Green Task Force," Mr. Bernal said, "which organized the first-ever Earth Fest in Coral Gables in April. He also worked on Gables

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