



P R E S S R E L E A S E

Chopper business honored

HeloAir wins award for growth, innovation and community spirit

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Nov 5, 2005 - HeloAir Inc., which flies choppers all over the Southeast, has won a major local business award. The Richmond company nabbed the 2005 Impact Award, presented by the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce.

The award honors a privately held company that demonstrates growth, innovation and community spirit. It must be a firm that has overcome adversity, contributed to regional growth and created a quality work environment.

Founded in 1992 by Whit Baldwin, HeloAir provides helicopter services to numerous industries, including TV stations, defense contractors, power companies and movie producers.

It offers charters as well as management and maintenance service for helicopter owners.

"This indicates the folks at the chamber think we're giving back to the community. We really try to do that," Baldwin said.

The civil-aviation industry has faced some tough times, he said. "We've been able to succeed because we have great people.

HeloAir's fleet of nine choppers includes Bell JetRangers, Long Rangers and 407s, as well as a smaller Schweizer aircraft. Four are based in Richmond.

In addition to its headquarters here, the company operates offices in Chesapeake, Roanoke, Manassas, Atlanta and Charlotte, N.C. It employs about 17 people.

After Hurricane Katrina, HeloAir sent two of its Bell 407s to the Gulf Coast, where they flew doctors, nurses, water and medicine to areas hit by the storm. One helicopter spent nearly a month in the region.

The company has worked with local charities such as Comfort Zone Camp, the Massey Cancer Center and Children's Hospital. It encourages employees to take one day each quarter to volunteer at their favorite charity.

The award was presented at the chamber's 138th annual dinner. Other finalists were Environmental Solutions Inc., Free Agents Marketing, Home Care Delivered and Service Center Metals. Last year's winner was CapTech Ventures Inc., a technology consulting company.