

# The Henry County Times

*"Celebrating Henry County"*

Savannah is  
our Pet of the  
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Celebrating seven years of faithfully serving our readers, the people of Henry County.

## McDonough business earns impressive recognition

By Melissa Robinson  
Contributing Editor

McDonough based Bennett International Group was honored last month by being named a runner-up for the 2010 Georgia Family Business of the Year Awards, by the Cox Family Enterprise Center at Kennesaw State University's Coles College of Business.

Bennett, a trucking /transportation company, was selected as a finalist in the large business category, and although today Bennett International is a leader in the trucking and transport industry, 36 years ago the company was a fledgling family-owned business with two customers and five trucks. Under the leadership of Marcia G. Taylor, it has grown into an international full-service transportation company with thousands of customers worldwide.

Taylor and her late husband, J.D. Garrison, bought the company in 1974 and together they helped grow it to the industry leader it is today.

"We had about \$500 in capital and bought Bennett on credit," said Taylor

According to Asia Grimes, Director of Marketing, Bennett International Group currently has 574 employees, 2,500 independent owner/operators and a network of 220 Bennett agents throughout the world.

The company has eight divisions including trucking and specialized freight transport, warehousing and distribution, import and export, drive away vehicle transport, manufactured housing transport, brokerage and portable building manufacturing, with revenues of more than \$270 million.

Taylor is quick to credit the company's success to the hard work and dedication of her family and employees, as well as the company's core values. Taylor's two sons, David and Danny Lowry and daughter Lynette Alt are all board member as well as co-owners, and head up different divisions within the company, having started working in the family business back in high



Marcia Taylor pictured with her children (l-r) Danny Lowry, Lynette Alt, and David Lowry "are committed to an inclusive, compassionate, enjoyable, and healthy working environment, where we honor our extended family relationships, and our civic and social responsibility."

Special photo

school. A number of Taylor's grandchildren also work for the company.

"We evolved into a company that had a family culture. My children grew up here, and we have a lot of families who work here. Mothers and daughters and mothers and sons work here and

we see a great benefit to employing members from the same family. We're a faith based, value based company. It's a family culture and we care about each other. Many people that we started with are either

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## Business, from front

still here or retired from our company," said Taylor.

Part of that corporate culture includes giving back to the community. Bennett International Group contributes to a host of charities and organizations in Henry County, including A Friend's House, Haven House, Noah's Ark, Hands of Hope Medical Clinic, Connecting Henry, Faith Riders and Helping In His Name Food Pantry, just to name a few.

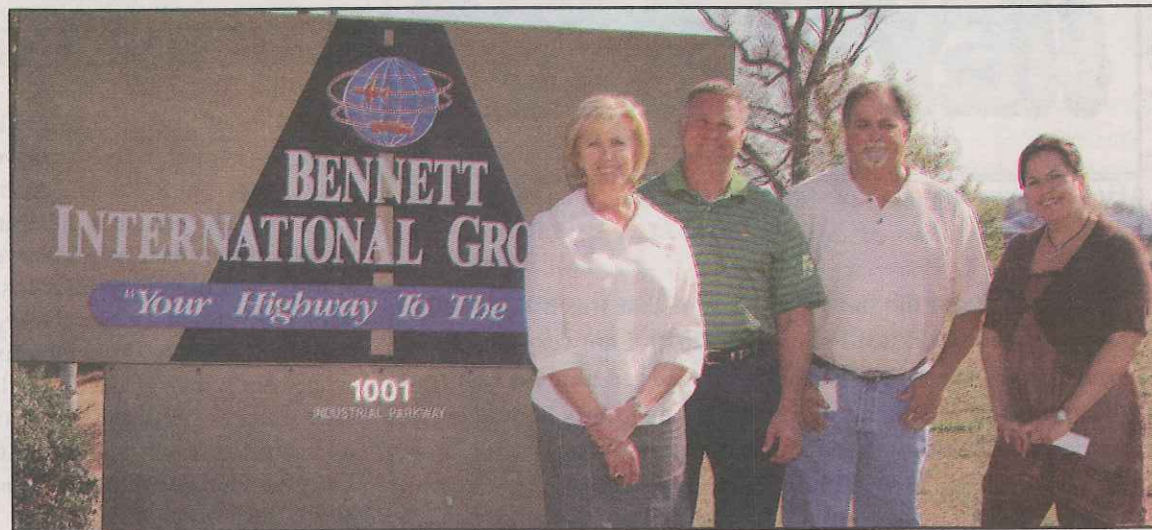
Recently, Bennett International was asked to provide assistance to the top-rated ABC reality show, *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. The company donated a custom made storage unit as well as the

transportation of a modular home to help a Georgia family in an upcoming episode. Several employees also volunteered to help with the makeover. The season finale is due to air in May.

Danny Lowry, who heads up the division involved with the show donation, said that helping the family that will be featured on the show, falls in line with the company's vision.

"We have a commitment to the community and we felt that this fit in with that commitment," said Lowry.

In order to be eligible for a Georgia Family Business of the Year Award, a business must be critiqued by a panel of independent judges on the basis of its proven business success, positive family/business link-



**Now international, Bennett was a fledgling family-owned business just 36 years ago. L-R is Marcia Taylor with sons Danny Lowry and David Lowry, and daughter Lynette Alt.**

age, multi-generational family business involvement, contributions to industry and community, and innovative business practices and strategy.

"Henry County is extremely fortunate to house growing and innovative and community minded businesses like Bennett International," said Henry

County Chamber of Commerce President, Kay Pippin. "It's wonderful to see such a deserving organization being honored for all their hard work."

**NEW PATIENT SPRING SPECIAL**