

Turning Four!

By Beverly Denver

This month marks the fourth birthday of *Houston Woman Magazine*. As you might expect, the mood around here is both celebratory and reflective.

In March 2004, we began with a grand plan — to inform, inspire and connect successful women. We sought readers and advertisers to support those efforts. And, quickly, we found them. Four years later, many of those original supporters are still with us. The pages of each new issue of *Houston Woman Magazine* bear witness!

It is difficult to express adequately how very grateful we are to all our enthusiastic patrons. Without a doubt, *Houston Woman Magazine* would not be what it is today without each and every one of you!

Over the past 48 months we've grown accustomed to doing what we do. Even so, the job has never become routine. Each new day is different, and many of them are full of pleasant surprises.

For example, we get letters! You write and say you like what we're doing and encourage us to "keep it up." Then, thankfully, you tell us about more women we should write about and more groups doing remarkable things to enhance the lives of many of our sisters. Before long we are following up and discovering just how right you are and how valuable is your feedback.

Believe me, we are so appreciative!

In late 2005, we got the idea for the HER Awards (Honoring Excellent Role Models). We thought it would be great to recognize a number of women who live day-to-day in the service of others. We thought it would be wonderful if we could get you — our smart and savvy readers — involved in the selection process. We could ask you to nominate amazing women in eight different categories! But, alas, the idea came a bit too late that year to move forward.

But, by the beginning of 2007, we were ready! We stopped "thinking" about sponsoring the HER Awards and dedicated ourselves to making a recognition program happen. With the help of a number of generous sponsors and hundreds of readers who filled out nomination forms, the First Annual HER Awards Program became a reality, and eight incredible women were given their due!

In May of 2007, a luncheon was held at Tony's to honor the HER Award winners, and then, a few weeks later, the stories of all eight of those women were told on the pages of *Houston Woman Magazine*. That issue was, without a doubt, our most popular one ever!

We would love to see that history of success repeat itself in 2008.

Nomination forms for the Second Annual HER Awards are included in this issue (pages 24-25), and the deadline to submit them has been extended to April 30. This go-round, we are hoping even more of you will participate. Your involvement is key; it truly is the life source of this program and everything else we do here!

And, as always, we are so very, very appreciative!

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