

# CHIP HARPER



Chip Harper is an entrepreneur whose key interests are business, public education and community service.

Chip became the fourth generation owner of Harrison, Walker & Harper in 1973. He grew the general construction company from a \$50,000/year residential builder into a multi-million dollar commercial/industrial contractor. To compliment that enterprise, Chip founded We Pack Logistics, a 3rd party logistics company, in 1992. That business, too, has grown into a multi-million dollar company. Along the way he has also been a real estate developer and banking partner. In 1996 he was presented the Sam Walton Business Leader Award.

Chip's passion is public education. To foster meaningful preparation of our children for the "real world," he co-founded the Lamar County Coalition for Business, Education and Industry. Its purpose is to promote communication between educators and job providers so that they eliminate duplication of efforts and work towards the same goals. For many years Chip has been working towards a coordinated construction industry curriculum between Paris High School, Paris Junior College and Texas A&M in Commerce. He currently chairs a committee to create a civil and industrial engineering program at Texas A&M, and since 1994 has served on the A&M Foundation Board responsible for raising endowment funds. In 1984 he was appointed by Governor Bill Clements to the Texas State Job Coordinating Council, and in 1983 to the Executive Committee of Ark-Tex Private Industry Council, which funnelled all workforce development and training dollars from federal and state governments. Chip has also encouraged continuing education for his employees by providing time and funding for seminars, classes and literature. He was honored in 1996 with the Hero of Children Award from the Texas State Board of Education for his efforts to improve education.

Chip prefers a low-key approach to community service that concentrates on public education and the historical preservation of his community. He has provided manpower, materials and funding to support such projects as the Paris Main Street Project, the renovation of Texas Senator Aikin's office, the Gibraltar Hotel, the South Sulphur River Regional Development Amphitheater and Historical Park, the Plaza Theater, the Salvation Army Center, the Child Advocacy Center, and the Paris Area Arts Alliance.

Chip and his wife, Susan, have four children. Sons Holland and Jordan are 25 and 24, and daughters Annie and Alex are 22 and 16. Chip is a member of East Paris Baptist Church. He enjoys jogging and walking, snow and water skiing. He also collects and refurbishes old Cadillacs and Airstream trailers.

**Harrison, Walker & Harper Inc.**  
222 Hickory Street, Paris, TX 75460, 903-785-1653 Fax 903-784-1471  
charper@webuild-hwh.com