

## **COMMWORLD of Kansas City**

Grandview, MO/14 employees  
Owners: **Bob and Linda Bennett**

*"Our team has created stability, loyalty and honor in a wild and wooly industry." — Linda Bennett*



One of the things that Linda and Bob Bennett would never change is their belief in the power of goal setting. In 1981, they had hit rock bottom: They were broke, depressed and out of work. Everything seemed to be going wrong at once. They painted houses for \$5 an hour to get by, but they could only do that for so long. It was time to move on. They sat down and made a list of goals, most of which seemed way out of reach. But they persevered.

Bob's job search led him to COMMWORLD in 1981, where he was hired to open and manage COMMWORLD'S first of 68 offices nationwide. Linda and Bob were major contributors to the growth of COMMWORLD. In 1982, Bob and Linda bought the franchise rights, and now the company operates independently.

"The best part of the franchise experience was the sharing of ideas among the franchise owners," Linda said.

Linda and Bob firmly believe that the more you learn, the better the company will be. They have an extensive library of training books, tapes, CDs and other mate-

rials, and the company offers a tuition-reimbursement program.

"We are striving to be the company that employees never, ever want to leave and customers never, ever want to do without," Linda said.

COMMWORLD sells, installs and services business telephone systems, voice mail and related voice and data products and services. The company offers special discounts to non-profit organizations; it has donated technical expertise, time and telephones for telemarketing calls for breast cancer awareness; it has donated several vehicles to the National Kidney Foundation and has participated in the United Cerebral Palsy telethon.

COMMWORLD also offers stable employment. Four people have been with the company for more than 20 years. Bob and Linda still have that original list of goals, albeit a modified version now, and they are proud to say they have achieved many of them.

"I think it is the character of the company that has led to our longevity," Linda said.