

LEADING BY *example*

Three community leaders on power, leadership and the value of kindness

What does it mean to have power?

Is it being able to commandeer the best seat in a restaurant? Or greeting movers and shakers who line up at your table to pay tribute when you do?

Does it mean using harsh words or intimidating gestures to motivate an employee or coach a child? Is it putting layers of people between you and those you lead, so that you stay properly mysterious?

None of the above, say the power trio we asked: Samira Beckwith, CEO of Hope Healthcare Services; Jim Nathan, CEO of Lee Memorial Health System; and Gail Markham, founding partner of Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Company, P.A.

All are at the top of their fields, with reputations that stretch from their own professional associations to the halls of Congress. All are powerful forces in philanthropy, the sorts whose support for an organization leads to others joining the volunteer ranks and opening their own checkbooks.

So what does power mean to them?

It's remembering to say "Good morning" when passing an employee in the hall. Walking out into the world with a smile, so that someone else can see the brightness in it, too. Asking yourself what's best for everyone around you, and then doing it, even if it means sacrificing a personal goal.

It's being the same person whether you are in the grocery store or the boardroom, because others trust you when you say "What you see is what you get." It's in sharing whatever accolades come your way, so that someone else's star can shine.

What does it mean, finally, to have power? For these three, the answer to that question is unanimous.

It means you use it for good.

Story by TRACY JONES | Photos by BRIAN TIETZ

"I don't expect something from other people that I don't expect from myself."
Samira Beckwith, CEO, Hope Healthcare Services

