

# Company rewarded for a labour of love



WELL-DERIVED: Karen and David Reeves with their awards awards.

Picture: WESLEY MONTS

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THE company that led construction of "the house that love built" has had the love returned after collecting two prestigious business awards.

Reeves Constructions, which has provided construction management for the Ronald McDonald House North Queensland since its development at the Townsville Hospital in 2004, has won the Business Community Award and Townsville Chamber Champion Award at the chamber's 2014 Business Awards.

Chamber president Stephen Motti said Reeves was a stand-out finalist for its contribution to the community and for its business engagement and ability to adapt.

"They are very much a long-term business that has adapted to conditions and worked collaboratively with the broader business community," Mr Motti said.

"Clearly, they have contributed to the community with what they have achieved with Ronald McDonald House."

Referred to as the "house that love built", the centre has provided accommodation for more than 1600 families of seriously ill children from all over North Queensland and recently was refurbished and

expanded with a \$3.2 million stage two development.

Reeves Constructions, founded by David and Karen Reeves in 1991, has been involved in some of the city's most prominent developments.

In many ways, the family and business have flourished from a love for Townsville.

Mr Reeves came to the city in 1986 with Adco Constructions as principal contractor on the office tower Suncorp Plaza in Sturt St.

He brought his family with him and they all returned the following year for good.

"We loved Townsville and decided to bite the bullet and move here," Mr Reeves said.

"We sold the house and

everything (in Sydney) and built a home in Annandale."

After working on what is now the Mercure Townsville and Lakes caravan park, as well as the "stonehenge" Sundome at Murray, Mr Reeves set up Reeves Constructions working on commercial and residential projects.

A project with McDonald's franchisee George Colbran led to a long-term association with that business.

Many of the city's commercial buildings have been built or fitted out by Reeves such as the Carmichael group's new Mercedes-Benz showroom in Charters Towers Rd.

Asked for some of his business strategy, Mr Reeves said his was a mix of undertaking

specialised jobs such as developing medical centres, veterinary clinics and dental surgeries, doing "what my clients want done" and in the current slow market "surviving".

"Having a fair bit of experience has allowed us to do specialised work. Those jobs that take a little bit of extra expertise and understanding," Mr Reeves said. "You also have to accept change readily."

Reeves has diversified by taking on the distribution rights to showerscreen, wardrobe and windows supplier Stegbar and installing a showroom in their Hyde Park premises. Mr Reeves was "quietly confident" activity in the region's economy would return to normal in the next year.