THE MCCALLUM AWARD
John G. Beard, JD, MBA

John G. Beard is Chairman and President of Alacare Home Health and Hospice. After earning a BS in business administration, an MBA from Samford University and a law degree from Cumberland School of Law, he joined the company his father had founded, which is now Alabama’s oldest and largest privately owned Medicare-certified home health agency.

Beard is a member of numerous state and national boards and commissions related to home health and hospice care, and serves on the Board of Advocacy for the UAB Center for Aging and the UAB Palliative Care Community Advisory Board. He is an active member and past president of Shades Valley Rotary and is a trustee and Chairman’s Circle Member of the Birmingham Business Alliance.

Beard is married to the former Louise Hall, a well-known Birmingham dance teacher whose Time Step Studio’s annual recitals prove forevermore that you’re never too old to tap. They have two grown children and are members of Independent Presbyterian Church.

The McCallum Award was established in 2003 and named for former UAB president and former mayor of Vestavia Hills, Charles A. (Scotty) McCallum, Jr., DMD, MD. The award recognizes an individual or organization that has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service on behalf of the UAB Center for Aging and its mission.
2010 Center for Aging Award Recipients

THE ROBERT P. BYNUM AWARD
Esther Schuster, LCSW

As Executive Director of Collat Jewish Family Services (CJFS) since 1995, Esther Schuster has combined her professional training as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with her passion for improving the lives of older adults. The result transformed a small committee of volunteers who wanted to ensure that elders had hot meals and transportation into an incorporated non-profit agency that sets the standard for caring for the aging population with dignity and respect.

Under her leadership, CJFS has initiated comprehensive services to enable older adults to age in place, including care management, Just Like Family assistance, transportation, in-home personal care and counseling. Delivered by caring staff, these individually targeted services can prevent or delay the need for more costly and less desirable institutionalization.

Schuster is recognized as a leader in the field of aging, and recently received the Humanitarian Award from the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. She received her BA in sociology and psychology from the State University of New York at Albany, and her MS in social work from Case Western Reserve University.

Schuster and her husband, Dr. Allen Shealy, are the parents of a grown daughter. Schuster plans to retire in January 2011, after which she intends to travel and enjoy some of the pleasures that she has put off for far too long.

The Bynum Award honors an adult who works to improve the health and well-being of older adults in the community. The award, established in 2005, recognizes Mr. Robert Bynum’s many years of service to older adults as Deputy Administrator of the Social Security Administration, as a member of the Alabama Commission on Aging, and as an employee and consultant for the UAB Center for Aging.
United Way of Central Alabama

One asset of United Way to this community is its ability to survey and anticipate community needs. In 2006, United Way of Central Alabama (UWCA) conducted a needs assessment that identified the current and emerging needs of the rising senior population. In response to the assessment, UWCA has sought to enrich the lives of seniors in our community through several initiatives:

- Convened Senior Issues Focus Groups in each county service area
- Established a Senior Support Fund to assist with unmet needs for seniors
- Co-convened the 2010 Senior Summit: “Mobilizing Communities and Congregations to Enhance the Care for our Seniors”
- Provided funding for agencies and programs that focus on the special needs of seniors

United Way is not an organization – it is a movement of people with a shared commitment to community. Its organizers were motivated by a desire to identify and meet needs that were more common to communities than they were to individuals within communities. From Community Chest in 1923 to the United Appeal to United Way of Central Alabama, Inc.- it has expanded from Birmingham to Shelby, Walker, Blount and St. Clair counties.

UWCA convenes, facilitates and coordinates resources to focus broad-based efforts in developing services and creating solutions for chronic and/or emerging health, social and human services issues. This is accomplished with hundreds of volunteers each year who give their time, treasure and talent to United Way.

Today, United Way funds over 84 partners and last year raised over $37 million dollars for the most important needs in the community.

The New Horizons Award recognizes not-for-profit organizations that have worked to enhance the health and well-being of older adults in the community. The award was established in 2005 and was named for New Horizons at UAB, a self-governing organization of older adults who design a curriculum to meet the diverse interests of its members.