

# C.H.A.L.L.E.N.G.E.S. inc

Working with Families in Business

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*“They say that blood is thicker than water. Maybe that's why we battle our own with more energy and gusto than we would ever expend on strangers.”*

David Assael 1993

## “Tis The Season”

Most of us want to be respected. Most of us want to hear the truth and be treated fairly. Most of us want to be trusted and to trust others. Most of us want to know others will stand with us when times are tough. Most of us really want our family members to be our friends with whom we can share all of our emotions with and yes, most of us want to be loved and maybe even hugged once in a while. All of these feelings are the emotional support most of us want even though some of us will never admit it and others cannot find the words to describe it. Most of us naturally believe that the first group of people we should receive these emotional comforts from is our family.

How is it that families that may have been close, as many tell us, when they were younger and struggling, move further apart from one another as they get older and the family business becomes more successful? For those of us who have “*challenges*” with our family relationships it “Tis the Season” for us to reflect on what “family” really means to us.

If you enjoy the total emotional support of a whole family, please don't take it for granted. Keep working on it, keep remembering that you have to re-new your relationships with family members as each member grows in knowledge and experience. None of us are the same people we were 10 or even 5 years ago. Our knowledge and experiences have helped to mold us into the people we are now. Make sure that you really know who your family members are today.

**If your family relationships are strained or even broken, look for your family; those friends and family who give you the emotional support you need. Make sure you have made an honest effort to heal your family relationships until you are tired of trying and then try just one more time. How you show love will be reflected on those that come after you.**

**For members of the family business we MUST live “Family First.” We MUST take into consideration the affect our business decisions will have on other family members in business, even if we don’t really like one another. Why? We have observed that this type of decision making is always best for the business, always the right decision and because it “Tis The Season.”**

**To understand more about “Family First” and how it can improve your business give us a call. We know we can help.**

**Have a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!**

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