

**Hugh F. Gouldthorpe, Jr.'s** business card reads “head cheer-leader.” His signature neckties and colorful attire say “high creative”. And his smile and handshake say the rest.

H. F. “Goldie” Gouldthorpe, Jr. is a gifted motivational speaker, writer and teacher in leadership, sales, marketing, communications, customer service and organizational culture. He is the author of *I’ve Always Looked Up to Giraffes* and *How To Make a Giraffe Smile*, books that focus on leaders and organizations that stand head and shoulders above the crowd.

He is senior vice president of quality and communications at Owens&Minor, the nation’s largest supplier of branded medical and surgical supplies. He shares his quality message with Owens&Minor’s trading partners and with business, educational, civic and government groups nationwide.

Hugh is the driving force behind Owens&Minor’s unique and caring culture which focuses on putting people first and helping them succeed. He is the recipient of both the Owens&Minor “Spirit” and “Quality” awards, given to a teammate who, in the chairman’s opinion, best personifies the spirit of quality in the organization.

Before joining Owens&Minor, Hugh spent 20 years with E.R. Squibb & Sons, Inc. in various leadership positions in sales, marketing, training and advertising with the pharmaceutical giant. He received Squibb’s Blue Vase award for his ranking as the company’s top sales representative nationwide.

Hugh also extends his time and talents to the community. He has held an honorary chair in marketing with Virginia Union University, where he taught and presented campus-wide lectures on leadership and quality issues. Hugh is a board member of the Massey Cancer Center, First Freedom Center, VCU School of Nursing Advancement Council, Longwood University School of Business and the VCU School of Pharmacy National Advisory Board. He is the recipient of the Voices for Virginia Children’s first ever Champion for Children award, The Urban League Lifetime Achievement Award, Senior Connections’ Empty Plate Award, the Urban Financial Living Legend Award, the Toastmaster International Leadership and Communication Award, Community Service Award, the Association of Operating Room Nurses Richard B. Caspari Award for his outstanding leadership and citizenship in Richmond and nationwide, the Metropolitan Business League’s Distinguished Service Award and the Asian American Society of Central Virginia’s Shining Star Award. He is chairman emeritus of the Richmond Police Foundation, and Success by 6, a United Way initiative dedicated to improving the quality of life for children, and a member emeritus of the Advisory Board of the University of Virginia’s School of Nursing. Hugh also serves on the advisory boards for the YWCA, MD News Magazine, Virginia Foundation for Community College Education, Virginia Supportive Housing, and is vice chairman of Senior Connections Capital Area Agency on Aging.

He was among a small group of community leaders selected to participate in the 1997/98 session of Leadership Metro Richmond, and was selected valedictorian for the class. He currently serves on their board of directors.

Hugh is a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and is a recipient of an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree from Saint Paul’s College in Lawrenceville, Virginia.

