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Miami Herald's 20 leaders under 40

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When we asked readers to nominate emerging business leaders under 40, we were flooded with candidates. Here's our top 20.



David Clarke, CEO, BGT Partners CHARLES TRAINOR JR / MIAMI HERALD STAFF

For those who wonder about the next generation of leaders: look around you.

In February, The Miami Herald asked readers to recommend emerging leaders under 40. Hundreds of e-mails flooded our box.

The flurry of nominations illustrates what veteran business leader Alberto Iburgüen maintains: It's not hard to find those people here.

"When you ask, you find them," said the Knight Foundation chairman, who said that today's young business leaders take cues from their own entrepreneurship, not from corporate activity.

David Clarke

AGE: 38

OCCUPATION: CEO of BGT Partners

LIVES IN: Aventura

What Clarke started in 1996 as a website development company has evolved into a firm dedicated to enhancing the social media and marketing strategies of such companies as Sony, Carnival and Ryder System.

The BGT lobby wall is overrun with trophies and plaques, including being named a Top 10 Agency of the Year at the 2009 Interactive Media Awards.

BGT touts a healthy employee retention rate driven partly because of events like this: Every Friday the company buys lunch for everyone while an employee plays music.

Clarke is involved in several charities, including Susan G. Komen for the Cure and Junior Achievement.

QUOTE: "A great leader is employee centric. And I think great leaders understand that if your employees are happy, then your clients will be happy, and that's what makes great success in business."