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President Nicholas J. Masucci (center) and other members of VMS Inc. celebrate winning the Rising 25 award.

VMS Inc. takes top honor

Roads company is fastest-growing in Richmond area

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It's been a good year for pothole repairs.

After ranking high on lists such as Inc. magazine's line-up of America's fastest-growing private companies, road maintenance again proved to be a winner for Richmond-based VMS Inc.

At an awards banquet last night at the Richmond Marriott, the local company was named the fastest-growing business in the area.

The 5-year-old company topped the Rising 25, a list honoring local businesses with records of impressive growth.

"We have a great idea, a great vision," President Nicholas J. Masucci said, "and we have the best people to make that vision happen."

VMS makes contracts with government agencies to maintain interstate highways and other roads. In Virginia, the company manages portions of interstates 95, 381 (in Bristol), 81 and 77.

This was VMS' first time making the Richmond list, which is sponsored by accounting firm KPMG, the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce and the Metro Business section of the Richmond Times-Dispatch.

For 11 years, the Rising 25 has recognized the success of local businesses by evaluating their revenue over a five-year period. For the first time this year, a category was added to commend larger companies that also exhibit significant growth.

Companies in the new division are fast-rising businesses that, because of their size, can't compete with the growth of smaller businesses.

To qualify for the Rising 25 list, com-

panies must show a revenue of \$200,000 in 1995. For the larger company division, 1995 revenue must be at least \$7.5 million.

Among the Rising 25, the top five businesses grew at an average rate of 76.2 percent for the five years. The larger companies demonstrated a 34.1 percent average rate of growth.

Three businesses made the list for the new division; one received kudos for the most growth. At last night's banquet, wholesale distributor Service Partners LLC took that honor.

Chairman and founder Bob Baillie accepted the award. "It's recognition, really, of our employees' efforts to grow our company," he said after the ceremony.

Founded in 1977, Service Partners distributes insulation and other specialty building products, such as dry wall and roofing materials. The Glen Allen-based company passed Richmond contractor Conquest, Moncure & Dunn Inc. and Ashland retailer The Supply Room Cos. to earn the honor.

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