

Small Business

Life partners team up in working world



RENE JOHNSTON/TORONTO STAR

Marriage and business partners Mansfield David and Michele Officer have run Complete Mailing Service for 17 years. Their company has grown to fill a 13,000-square-foot North York warehouse.

among companies over 75 years old.

"I think there's a trust factor there," says Michele Officer, who runs Complete Mailing Service with her husband Mansfield David. "You're working at a common goal together, and you have a lot more at stake so you put a lot more into it. You don't have to worry that your business partner has a different agenda than you."

David started the full-service mailing business part-time from their home in 1988 after only two years of marriage. Both are now in their early 40s.

"Mansfield has an entrepreneurial spirit, so was natural for him to want to start a business," says Officer.

At the time, David worked for the government and Officer was in banking. Officer helped out with administrative tasks from the beginning. "We're sort of a team in all that we do," she explains. "He needed help in that particular area, which is what my strength is, so it was just natural for me to do it."

Now, their company has grown to fill a 13,000-square-foot warehouse in North York, provide jobs to more than 25 employees, and keep both David's and Officer's hands busy full-time in their positions as president and vice-president respectively.