

Julie has served Central Illinois as a business woman and philanthropist for almost 35 years. Julie and her family (husband Bob and children Steve, Jimmy, Laura and Erin) moved to Bloomington when they purchased several McDonald's restaurants (retired January 2017). Julie quickly became involved in the community by volunteering and making donations to local charities and non-profits. Julie has served as president of the McLean County Chamber of Commerce, Baby Fold chair, American Red Cross gala chair, Central Catholic High School Saints Alive chair, United Way chair and Bloomington-Normal Sunrise Rotary president. She is currently chairperson of the Illinois State University College of Business Advisory Board and is a trustee for Holy Trinity Catholic Church, where she and Bob have been parishioners since their move to town.

Julie's commitment to the community has been recognized by numerous groups and organizations, with her honors including: McDonald's People Award, two-time recipient of the McDonald's Ronald Award; McLean County Chamber of Commerce Large Business of the Year award with McDonald's and Little Jewels Learning Center; Illinois Prairie Community Foundation Philanthropist of the Year, Illinois State University College of Business Entrepreneur of the Year, Boy Scout Good Scout award; Girl Scouts Diamond honoree, McLean County Chamber Athena award and YWCA McLean County Women of Distinction award. One of Julie's highest achievements is her 2016 honorary doctorate from Illinois State University.

Julie's passion for guiding and teaching children resulted in the opening of her first Little Jewels Learning Center in 2004. Demand for this type of educational and nurturing environment led to the opening of two additional Little Jewels centers.

Julie's life isn't all work, however. She frequently opens her home to groups and organizations to host parties and fundraisers. She and Bob started a local amateur theatre group called One Nighters II that just celebrated its 25th anniversary. Julie has also organized a group of dancers that star in the local Holiday Spectacular production each year and she has been involved with the Nutcracker for many years. She also loves to travel and explore new places and cultures.

Julie also enjoys spending time with her 3 grandchildren, Michael, Bryce and Dean.

Some of Julie's most memorable trips have been attending the annual Rotary International conventions. Julie joined the Sunrise Rotary in 2002 and has served the club and district in various capacities, including as club president in 2014-2015. During her presidency, she added 27 members; made the club 100% giving to The Rotary International Foundation; had 33 Paul Harris fellows. The club also received many awards, including District Club of the Year, Star Club, Club Service and the R I President Citation.

Julie was named Rotarian of the Year in 2015-2016. She is a member of the Paul Harris Society and was recently awarded the Jim Collie Vocational Award by the Normal Rotary Club. Currently serves as assistant governor. Julie will serve as district governor in 2019-2020.