

2015 Biography/Resume of Marlene B. Brown

Personal Information: Marlene Brown, a Clinton, NY native, was born in the family homestead, which has been occupied by family members since its initial log cabin construction in 1790. Marlene is the proud mother of five grown children, all successful in their chosen professions (Bradley, Vanessa, Christina, Melanie, Stacy) and grandmother of eight (Jeremiah, Josha, Rachel, Trevor, Samuel, Sarah, Atom, Zander).

Professions/Leadership/Education: A former Senior English & Psychology teacher, and Syracuse University American Management Assoc instructor, Marlene is founder/ owner of three small companies, author of numerous books and leadership programs. 1 of 15 in the world to have earned the combined degrees of Certified Professional Speaker & Certified Management Consultant, she traveled extensively as an internationally recognized business futurist speaker and marketing consultant.

Awards: In 2001 Marlene was 1 of 20 recipients awarded the 1st CNY Outstanding Women in Business Awards. In 2005, Marlene was one of 20 recipients awarded the 1st Mohawk Valley Outstanding Women in Business Awards. In 2007, Got the museum declared a NYS and Federal Historic Building in order to save it from being torn down; In 2011, Marlene was chosen as YWCA's Outstanding Woman Leader in Arts & Communication. 12.) In 2012, was chosen Co-Recipient of the Mayor's Ball. 13.) In 2012, she was recipient of the Landmarks Society of the Utica NY area Restoration award. 14.) In 2013, Marlene was inducted into the Woman's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls. Since 2001, she has been the Executive Director of the Children's Museum of History, Science and Technology in Utica, NY, working as a volunteer to preserve and grow the organization.

Organizational/Community Involvement: 1) Member of the BOCES Safe Schools/ Healthy Students Advisory Board; 2) Member of Utica City School District Channel 3 Committee; 3.) Member of the Chambers of Commerce; 4) Member of the Business and Professional Women's Assoc; 5) Member of the Museum Association of NYS; 6); Member of the American Assoc. of Museums; 7.) founder of Rotary eClub NY1, head-quartered at The Children's Museum; 8.) Designed and maintains local websites.

Accomplishments: 1.) Was a successful area teacher for many years; 2.) Traveled world-wide as a Business Futurist; 3.) Served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Children's Museum; 4.) Through her tireless efforts over the past 15 years overseeing the Children's Museum operations, she's been instrumental in opening additional floors, growing exhibits & offerings for school children, families, tourists; 5.) Secured grants to renovate the building; 7.) Chartered one of 14 Rotary eClubs authorized by Rotary Int'l; 7.) was Elected 2007-08 District Governor of Rotary District 7150 (3rd CNY women to hold this honor); 8.) Traveled to India at her own expense to take part in the ribbon cutting of a Rotary woman's computer school (giving them skills to go from begging to working to support their children); 9.) Traveled to Haiti at her own expense to begin a water/ sanitation project; 10.) Started a personal Endowment Fund at The Community Foundation for future use by The Children's Museum. In 2011, Marlene secured a grant from the Community Foundation to put in another bathroom on the 3rd floor.

Challenges: As the first instructor in the 1990's for MVCC's 'Women in Transition', her personal story of tragedy and triumph inspired many local women to begin their lives anew. In 2001, while serving as Chairman of the Children's Museum Board of Directors, Marlene discovered the museum was in a serious financial condition. Rather than closing the doors, she & husband Earl Lewis chose to keep the museum open. They continued to work as volunteers, constantly growing this valuable community asset: an educational resource, family quality of life, & tourism attraction.

Present: In 2015, Marlene retired to spend more time with her children & grandchildren, The Board of Directors presented Marlene with the title Executive Director Emeritus. She was also honored at this event by Mayor Rob Palmieri & former Congressman Sherry Boehlert. **Priorities:** Marlene states her number one priority in life is her family and her God, followed closely by her profession & her community. In her spare time, she loves to research, read, take photos of family events, update websites, spend time with her family.