

# SPOTLIGHT

## Christy Brown

*Chief Executive Officer, Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast*

*(First membership 2001)*



As the CEO of the Girls Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast for the past six years and 28 days, RCM Member Christy Brown has been helping part of the 1.8 million females internationally who believe in the power of every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader) to change the world.

The Girl Scouts journey began more than 105 years ago when Juliette Gordon “Daisy” Low organized the very first Girl Scout troop in March of 1912 in Savannah, GA. While most of us look forward to the annual *calories be ignored* Girl Scout cookies, this woman-driven service organization builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. This mission folds perfectly into Christy’s own pathway of making an impact and improving lives. Her leadership strength started right here in Milwaukee.

Born and raised in Milwaukee in the now very challenged 53206 zipcode, Christy's father operated a second generation rubbish business and her mother sold Avon products. Christy earned a superior education because of her keen mind and inquisitive spirit. She attended Rufus King High School. Her advanced education was bi-coastal: undergrad at Stanford in California and Duke in North Carolina for her law degree. She also holds a Master's Degree in Humanities from Duke. While growing up her parents were busy raising and supporting their children, and her mother's mantra of, "do the right thing," is imprinted in Christy's daily life.

Christy has practiced law for more than 20 years, starting at Michael Best & Friedrich as an associate attorney specializing in Labor and Employment Law, as Vice President & Corporate Counsel for Lutheran Social Services, as MATC's Vice President & General Counsel and just prior to joining the Girl Scouts, she was UWM's Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration and supervised the Legal Affairs department.

She uses her legal skills outside of the Girl Scouts as a director on the Northwestern Mutual Series Fund Board and chairs its Regulatory & Compliance Committee and serves as the Litigation Liaison for the board. And while overseeing more than 100 employees at Girl Scouts, having a legal perspective often comes in handy.

Christy first joined Rotary in 2001, but after starting her family and with two newborns she took a hiatus in 2007 and rejoined in 2011. Her daughter is now 13 and her son 12. Her daughter is an active and engaged Girl Scout who is thriving with a circle of strong friendships and mutual interests.

Whatever free time she has is spent ferrying her kids to their various sporting events. She and her husband, Brian, do enjoy movies together.

Christy loves the chance to interact with new people at Rotary and genuinely enjoys the variety of programming. "Rotary is a great source of information and knowledge. I love the mission of giving back, that's the best of the core of who we are."

Christy, her husband, and their two children live in Menomonee Falls.



**Editor's Note:**

*Next week this column will feature John Wermuth. Rotary Spotlight is written by RCM Board Member (and its Sergeant at Arms) Barbara Velez.*