

WENDY CHRISTOPHER, ΔZ



(nee Dowling) (Husband Bill)

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Birthday: June 13

Business Affiliation: Teacher Coral Gables High School

Wendy Christopher was born in Texas and attended Henderson State University where she pledged DZ. She transferred to the University of Arkansas and graduated with a BSE and a double major in Elementary/Special Ed.

She received the Most Outstanding Woman in the College of Education Award. Wendy was president of the student government and the student-liaison for the University Leadership Steering and Events Committee under the direction of the Dean of Students. She moved to Florida in 1987 to begin her teaching career. Wendy is an education specialist and has taught everything from Home Ec, Civics, Language Arts, U.S. History, World History, Television Production, dance & drama, career development, motivation, and leadership. Her goal as an educator has always been to inspire young people to think and motivate them about their self-worth. Wendy believes in change. "We grow if we allow change to happen."

Wendy felt a calling to motivate older students through leadership opportunities. This is when Rotary International found her and Wendy found her fit! She became the Interact Club sponsor for Sunset Senior High, Palmetto Senior High, and then the District 6990 Youth Leader for South Florida and Grand Bahamas. Building leaders became her passion! Wendy managed the largest Interact Clubs in the U.S.A. with over 250 members per year for almost 20 years. Because of Wendy, Palmetto was one of the first high schools in the nation to be chosen for the O (as in Oprah) Ambassadors program. Wendy traveled with students extensively to open their eyes to the world around them. She taught them to be leaders; to have the confidence they need to make a difference. Wendy was awarded the Rotary's Paul Harris Fellow for dedication to "Service Above Self." The 2009 recession moved Wendy to a younger population of students where she continued to lead the student council and the honor society, as well as, build the first dance, drama, and TV production classes at her new school.

Wendy has been happily married for 29 years to husband Bill. They have two beautiful college-age daughters. They enjoy traveling and boating which is her plan after retirement in 2025! Wendy has great story about how a once extremely shy and insecure young woman went to give motivational speeches to auditoriums full of teenagers and adults. Her motto: "The Woman at the top of the mountain didn't fall there!" As she got older and faced many new challenges and a love for sailing, her new motto became: "You cannot discover new oceans unless you have the courage to lose sight of shore." Thank you, Wendy, you continue to inspire ALL ages!