

Jennifer Ford-Chatfield

***Career Began in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in the Floral Business in 1989. Within 6 months of working at a local flower shop became manager and event director. Graduated from George Washington High School, Class of 1988.**

***Moved to Nashville, TN in the fall of 1994. Took a position at the Dick's Flowers. Was promoted to the Manager/ Event and Wedding Coordinator position for Dick's Flowers. We were the florist at Gaylord Opryland Hotel, The Grand Ole Opry, Governor's Office and Residence, and for many high profile celebrities and dignitaries. We designed and created a massive yearly holiday display throughout the hotel called Country Christmas, among thousands of major corporate clients, personal clients and destination client events. We were handling in upwards of 5-7 weddings in a week with large scale corporate events and galas that would seat 5000 for dinner in the Delta Ballroom. In my position I performed all of the day to day operations required of a manager. I created a master vendor list of preferred vendors in other arenas of expertise so that we could offer the client the ease of one stop shopping. I received multiple awards for my design work as well as being published.**

***Relocated to Connecticut in 2003, worked freelance at a large firm in Manhattan before settling into my current venture, Fleur de Lys Floral CO., LLC. Within one year of working for the previous owner, I turned a \$76,000.00 a year gift shop into the largest flower/event company in the area with 92% increase in sales. I purchase the business in late 2006 and I have grown the shop to just shy of \$1,000,000.00 in revenue each year. Fleur de Lys has been named Florist/ Event Company of the year for eight consecutive years. I have been very fortunate in my career to design events for some of the largest corporations in the country. I am the florist and creative director for companies such The World Headquarters of the Knights of Columbus, Yale New Haven Hospital, Smilow Cancer Hospital, Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, Yale University (Office of The President, Office of the Secretary, Yale School of Medicine, Yale School of Drama, Yale School of Forestry, Yale Office of Development, Yale Athletics, ASSA ABLOY, The Shubert Theater, The Long Wharf Theater, and many others.**

Working extensively with the Knights of Columbus has allowed me to travel each year with them to their worldwide convention to design and create. Each year we

travel to a new city in and around North America. Yale University has allowed me the opportunity to design events for many notable Heads of State from a multitude of cultures throughout the world. In addition, I have done extensive consulting work on build out and décor for many venues here in Connecticut. I enjoy this process very much and love to see a project start on paper in its infancy and come to fruition.

My background is quite extensive in food, banquet, marketing and sales in all aspects of wedding and event design. I consider myself a detail oriented person who thrives in a busy and active work environment. I am always looking for growth and new opportunities to learn and succeed.

I believe that one of the most important things a business can do is to become one within the community and find ways to give back to the community that supports it. In my spare time, I support many children, animal, and cancer. I am the active President of The Friends of Yale New Haven Children's Hospital with my tenure as President expiring in spring of 2016.