

# Kathie Kueht

Kathleen “Kathie” Kueht  
Founder/Principal CREACTION Global Consulting  
Member Since 1995

People often see a problem and think, “Hmm, someone should do something about that.”

That someone is Dr. Kathie Kueht.

“It’s easy to talk about a problem and wait for someone else to come along, But I’ve always been the type of person who sees a need and takes action.”

To say that Kathie is a trailblazer and enterprising entrepreneur is an understatement. Along with successful careers in counseling and human resources, Kathie has been a leader in helping women impacted by sexual violence and domestic abuse. In 1977, she co-founded The Women’s Center in Waukesha County. She spent decades offering moral support, resources and programs to victimized women throughout Southeastern Wisconsin. She also provided specialized training for medical and enforcement professionals and helped create legislation for sexual assault and domestic violence victims.



“It is very challenging, complicated work because it involves a lot of trauma and stigma, but it’s been extremely meaningful,” said Kathie, who like many women, is informed by her own experiences with trauma.

“The best way to overcome something negative is to take positive action to create change. I’m also a very resourceful person. I had to be because I was the first and only [woman] in a lot of settings throughout my life. I’ve had to be creative and innovative.”

Kathie, who lived in Wauwatosa for most of her life, is the eldest of four. Her father, a dentist, and her mom, a dental hygienist, expected all their children to pursue an advanced education. Kathie earned a degree in education at St. Norbert College. She got a master’s degree in counseling at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and earned a doctoral degree from George Washington University in the interdisciplinary Executive Leadership Program in the field of human and organizational learning. She held a series of counseling positions at schools and universities, including director of counseling and health services at Carroll College (now University). During that time, she met like-minded women, who came together to establish services for women and their families.



“I got very involved in looking at issues related to social justice, sexual assault and domestic violence. I left Carroll to get more involved in that and began writing grants, meeting with victims and accompanying them to their legal proceedings. That’s when we founded The Women’s Center. We saw a need and we took action.”

Kathie transitioned to human resources positions in health care and manufacturing, then worked as an independent contractor with Milwaukee-area companies to provide leadership development, sales and customer satisfaction training. Seeing the opportunity for a larger business venture, she founded PROACT, which morphed into the company she still owns and runs today. She combined “create” and “action” to name it CREACTION Global Consulting.

“My work involves using action learning, which is very effective at bringing groups of people together to solve problems by asking questions that build deeper understanding.”

Kathie, recognized for her research in resilience and action learning, specializes in executive coaching, conducting workshops, providing assessments and interventions and creating custom-designed learning solutions. She sees this as a calling that suits her.

“It fits what I like to do: listen to people, help solve their problems and lift them up so they can be the best person they want to be, businesswise as well as holistically.”



Kathie served as a board member for Professional Dimensions in several roles, including being involved in the development of a race relations initiative. She served as president of Wisconsin Women Entrepreneurs and as a board member for IMPACT. She also sponsored and mentored more than 300 outplaced executives through the Visions Network for more than 15 years.

She also tended to her family. She and Tom, a retired wealth manager/advisor, have been married for 55 years. Their daughter Kristin and her husband Rob and their four children divide their time between their homes in Illinois and Oconomowoc. Their son Tim is an executive manager at a major construction company in San Francisco. Kathie and Tom love spending time with her grandchildren.

“They are well-rounded, have a great work ethic and most importantly, are good citizens and kind people. We really enjoy their company.”

Kathie, who has overcome two autoimmune diseases and a life-threatening brutal attack outside her home in 2008, enjoys community engagement, traveling, painting, music and art and has no plans to slow down.

“I want to be a super ager, which is all about lifelong learning, a healthy lifestyle, contributing to a greater good and having meaningful connections with people.”

Rotary has played an important role in staying connected.

“I love learning from people, and I really appreciate how Rotary has evolved over the years to have a much more diverse membership and types of organizations that are represented. That’s a tribute to Mary [McCormick] and board leadership.”

Kathie remains as engaged as ever.

“I don’t think I’ll ever consider myself retired. In fact, I’m in my ‘reirement’ phase. I’m available for projects and service on boards. I have a lot left to contribute—especially with the insight of my lived experiences.”

**Editor’s Note:** *Rotary People of Action* is a bi-monthly series written by a group of Rotarians. This feature was written by Mary Bolich.