

Joe and Monica Glass

Joe Glass was born and raised in St. Paul and Monica Goosens was born and raised in West St. Paul. From an early age they each dedicated themselves to their families, their community, their education, and their careers.

Joe attended Cretin High School and Monica attended Derham Hall. They met at a party when Joe heard Monica's wonderful laugh in another room. His curiosity got the best of him, and he just had to see who it was. They were later married in St. Paul in 1982 and were inseparable until Monica's passing.

Joe began his career as a bank examiner for First Bank System in 1980. In 1984 he started in the credit department at American National Bank, and then in 1986 joined the loan review committee at Signal Bank. In 2002, Joe went to Park Midway Bank, which became Sunrise Banks, where Joe was Vice President/OREO Manager until he left in 2016. Today he owns and manages his own company, JW Glass Enterprises, LLC, and advises clients on franchise opportunities.

Monica was a financial wizard, with a major in Accounting and a minor in Computer Science. She worked for 20 years with First Bank/US Bank, starting in 1980. She began in the internal audit group, where she had several positions, including Distribution Support Manager, Return Items Manager, Project Manager, Bank Card Settlement Manager, and finally Project Manager at the Business Operations Center. In 2000, Joe and Monica's careers crossed paths when they were both at Signal Bank. Monica later became a certified public accountant, impressively passing all the sections of the CPA exam in her first seating.

Monica then had an opportunity to work with a group starting up a new bank in St. Paul-Gateway Bank. She worked in many areas of the Operations & IT, and eventually became their Chief Operating Officer.

Even though both Joe and Monica had busy and successful careers, together they served their community as volunteers in many ways. Joe and Monica were long-time members at the Pool & Yacht Club in St. Paul, and Monica served as a member of the Board of Directors there for 3 years. Both Joe and Monica volunteered for The United Way as fundraising coordinators. Monica was Co-Chair of Special Olympics Minnesota and they both served on the local chapter of the March of Dimes Board of Directors.

Joe's sister, Colleen, was born with a disability and Joe's mother Patt was an early volunteer board member of Our House of Minnesota, which provides long term group homes for developmentally disabled adults. Joe followed in his mother's footsteps and took her place on the board 25+ years ago and continues that service today.

Together, Joe and Monica also gave their time and talents to The Berres Homes, Inc., which provided services to the disabled and elderly. Monica was volunteer bookkeeper and Joe was a member of the Board of Directors.

In 2000, Joe became the Prince of the Southwind and Monica the Lady of the Southwind (positions considered by many to be the highest honor in the St. Paul Winter Carnival). They were part of the wonderful 2000 Royal Family and Vulcan Crewe. Together they devoted themselves to the St. Paul Winter Carnival, fitting for a couple with such deep ties to the city. They each served on the St. Paul Winter Carnival Board of Directors, and Joe volunteered as a member of the Queen of the Snows Selection Committee. They were both part of the Hosting Committee for visiting royalty, and Joe served as a member of the St. Paul Winter Carnival's ICE, LLC Board of Directors. Joe also became a board member for the Vulcan Community Charities, while Monica took on the demanding role of the St. Paul Winter Carnival Festival Chairperson.

Monica's talents were especially appreciated in 2000, when the St. Paul Winter Carnival Royal Family lost the services of their Prime Minister shortly after the beginning of the year. Monica stepped up without public recognition to fulfill many of the responsibilities of the Prime Minister (a position considered by many to be the most demanding role in the St. Paul Winter Carnival) by organizing the family's appearances, coordinating logistics, departure and arrival times, and managing the Royal Family's schedule.

Monica and Joe have shown us what it means to be a truly selfless and dedicated team. They unconditionally supported each other's goals and adventures, as volunteers, in business and in their personal lives together. Joe's great sense of humor and Monica's wonderfully direct way of communicating have always been a beautiful combination. They each had their own way of volunteering, participating, and engaging with others, on both a personal and professional level. But together, they were a team, dynamic, productive, compatible and fun.