

2014 Champaign-Urbana International Award Recipients Biographical Information

Carl W. Burkybile has served as the director of the American support group Caring for Kenya for 17 years. He has also served as the Director of Agriculture for Healing Hands International for three (3) years and is a member of the Champaign Rotary Club. He has formed a partnership between Caring for Kenya, Healing Hands International, area Rotary Clubs, and Rotary International on a \$116,000 water project that is providing clean water for 15,000 people. He says, "Give water, give hope, give life." Caring for Kenya strives to meet the physical needs of several individuals, as well as creating opportunities to meet spiritual needs. With a strong background in agriculture, Carl teaches composting, construction of raised planting beds, use of drip irrigation, and mulching. "In developing countries what we teach is simple, sustainable, and affordable. Farmers learn to use the resources available to them," Carl says. He has traveled to Africa, Baja, Mexico, Honduras, and Haiti. During his various trips, Carl helps provide medical supplies to clinics and hospitals, clothes for children, and teaching materials for churches.

Jackie Corlett Johnson is a British designer who has lived and worked in Bangladesh for over 20 years and currently resides in Royal, IL with her American husband. During her time in Bangladesh, she lived in the capital of Dhaka, a city teeming with people and extreme urban poverty. Spurred by her love for people and Jesus, Jackie continues to work in different ways to ensure design skills are used to solve problems in Bangladesh – not only to make beautiful products. To help generate income, Jackie initially designed items with hand weavers, tailors, basket makers, and many other talented artisans. During this time she discovered that Bangladesh had no formal design training available. As a result, Jackie developed the first full-time Design Education curriculum in Bangladesh, serving as the foundation for the first two private design colleges in the country. It was during this time that Jackie established Motif, a Fair Trade business that employs amazing artisans who create collections of totes, jewelry, and scarves. Currently she spends one month every year back in Dhaka at Motif, with the other months spent promoting Motif and Fair Trade in America.

Visit Champaign County AgriTours Illinois is a program that attracts international agriculture professionals to Champaign County. Through the program, a joint cooperation with the Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau, professionals visit with local farmers, grain facilities, and the College of ACES at the University of Illinois. Since its inception in 2006, groups from all around the world including Canada, Germany, Japan, Brazil, Thailand, Russia, Portugal, United Kingdom, Norway, China, and France have traveled to Champaign County to learn from our farmers and institutions. Through AgriTours Illinois, international agriculture professionals are able to learn about the leading research and best practices applied to the farming industry. By spending time with our local farmers, facilities and research institutions, these professionals are able to take the knowledge they've gained and apply it back to the industry in their country. In 2013, 36 international groups, with a total of 3,358 visitors traveled to Champaign County, creating a \$406,605 economic impact. As the program continues to grow, the impact of international tourism, as it relates to agriculture, will continue to rise.