

Bill Bowman, Chief Executive Officer

Originally from Pittsburgh, Bill came to Fayetteville, North Carolina, as a soldier at Fort Bragg in 1969. He loves living in the south (and the fact that it doesn't snow here in April) and decided to make Fayetteville his home.

Without any previous experience in the newspaper industry, Bill became a newspaper publisher. His background and education focused on business, sales and marketing. He left a successful, nine year career with the Pitney Bowes Corporation to start Cumberland County's first free community newspaper, Up & Coming Weekly in 1996. Two years later, Bill and then young newspaper editor Joy Kirkpatrick brought the Raleigh, NC-based Kidsville News! to the community. Today, Up & Coming Weekly is enjoying its eleventh year and Kidsville News!, Cumberland Co. edition, is in its ninth year. In 2005, Bill purchased Kidsville News Incorporated and has since expanded the publication nation-wide. It is Bill's vision to provide publications locally and nationwide that impact, enhance and promote a community's unique "quality of life." Bill believes that building better communities for future generations should be everyone's top priority and the work has just begun!

Bill credits the success of his publications to having enough common sense to hire intelligent and hard working people. During the past decade, he has studied and learned the newspaper industry to become a highly respected media and marketing authority. Bill currently serves as director on several local, state and national boards. He is the 2005 board Chairman of Cumberland County United Way and is currently serving on the boards of the N.C. Press Association, Independent Free Papers of America, and Southeastern Advertising Publishers Association. He was recently appointed to the faculty of the Association of Free Community Papers newly formed Leadership Institute.

Bill and his wife Marilyn have a 24 year-old son, Grady McLeod Bowman. Grady graduated in 2005 from the North Carolina School of the Arts and now lives in New York City. A lifelong singer, dancer and actor, Grady's big break came when he landed a role (at the age of 9!) in the now classic Tom Hank's film "Forrest Gump." Grady is headed for the bright lights of Broadway. He was recently cast in the new Broadway show "South Pacific."

Bill's favorite colors are white and blue and his hobby is riding his pearl white Harley Davidson motorcycle across country. The longer the trip, the better. Bill is also a nationally ranked billiard player. Obviously, these are two traits that reflect an ill spent childhood! He claims that both hobbies are his only effective forms of rest and relaxation. As a child, his favorite TV show was the Mickey Mouse Club, especially the episodes of Spin and Marty. As an adult, Seinfeld and Curb Your Enthusiasm speak volumes of his personality.