

Gina Brennan

39

CEO, Corporate Car & Coach

Hometown: **Durand, Wis.**

Family: **Husband Jay, two stepdaughters, 18 and 21**

Gina Brennan is on the move. And thanks to her business acumen, so are more and more of her clients. Annual revenue for her company, Corporate Car & Coach, more than doubled to \$2 million after she acquired River City Limousine in 2009. Since then, Brennan has expanded to Rochester and signed big-hitting clients like Medtronic Inc., General Mills Inc. and 3M Co.

The Women's Business Enterprise National Council awarded Corporate Car & Coach a certification as a woman-owned business — the first in Minnesota to receive the certification in the luxury transportation industry. For two years, Brennan also has been active in helping promote women in business as the executive fundraiser for the Minneapolis chapter of Executive Women International.

Outside business, Brennan's community service includes serving as a volunteer for the Mayo Clinic, where she helps dying patients without family or friends through the end-of-life process. Brennan raises funds for a number of medical causes as well, including the Eagles Cancer Telethon in Rochester, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Pulmonary Hypertension Association and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

— Justin Horwath, staff writer

Q&A

If you weren't in the career you're in, what would you be doing? Before I started in the luxury transportation industry, I was in human resources management. I would go back to that in a heartbeat, because I love working with people.

What gets you excited about work? My clients. They each bring a story or an event or a milestone to what we do. It keeps things exciting.

I know it's a good day when ... I find myself whistling.

What's your biggest achievement? Overcoming the challenges and obstacles of a family-operated business — and still getting invited to Thanksgiving.

Once I found _____. It was the coolest thing I ever found. A way to walk again

What's the best compliment you've ever received? When my family, employees and friends tell me they're proud of me. That means everything.

Name something you thought was cool, then thought was lame and now think is cool again. My parents. They went from being the coolest people on Earth to being the lamest people I'd ever met. I had it right as a kid.

I absolutely do not want to live without ... Jack Daniels

Where can you be found online? Facebook, LinkedIn and ridewithcorpcar.com

I wanted to be _____ when I grew up. An X-ray technician

My spirit animal is the ... Lion. It best fits my personality and leadership style.

Recently I crossed _____ off my bucket list. Nothing, but that will change soon.

Book/e-reader/TV: TV

Morning/noon/night: Morning

Talk/Text: Talk

What's your five-year plan? I want to spend the next five years making sure my 40s are just as successful as my 30s. And nap on a beach on Kauai.

What others are saying: "Gina Brennan has proven to be an industry leader and a knowledgeable resource whose integrity and commitment to excellence always stands out." — Chris Weiss, publisher, Limousine Digest



"I wanted to be an X-ray technician when I grew up."