



Julie Yates, *An International Perspective*

Julie Yates has managed commercial real estate properties in the United States and London. After living and working in London for fifteen years, Julie and her husband Steve moved back to Arizona in 2015 and became re-acquainted with Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center. She said, “We loved living in London and experiencing the perspective of an international community.”

In 1993, the Lutheran Church was given facilities and land in Carefree that had been the International Restaurant and the Adobe Inn. Julie, because of her expertise, was involved with a group of people assessing the property, its potential, and its future use as a retreat center.

Julie’s more recent involvement with Spirit in the Desert was attending “*Boundless Compassion*” led by Joyce Rupp, a well-known author and retreat leader. Julie liked the emphasis on the power of compassion to change the world. She is encouraged by Spirit in the Desert’s outreach to organizations and people from around the globe. In 2018 the retreat center hosted people from over 21 countries.

In April 2019, Julie was appointed to Spirit in the Desert’s Board of Directors. She said, “I am honored to be a part of this amazing group of leaders and for the opportunity to work with Executive Director, Richard Andersen. The retreat center is in a growth phase and it is exciting to be a part of it.”

Asked what challenges she sees for the retreat center, Julie said, “One of the issues I see is the center’s semi-remote location that makes it difficult to find and retain staff for dining and housekeeping positions. I am looking forward to assisting with this and other property management challenges.”

Julie grew up in Scottsdale, Arizona and attended Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. After completing two years at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, she graduated from Arizona State University and began her career in real estate. Julie and her husband, Steve, have a daughter and son-in-law living in Mesa, Arizona, and they are enjoying the opportunity to babysit their two young granddaughters.