

Gale Hill Bio

Gale Hill is the consummate entrepreneur having owned and operated two businesses over the last 12 years. Currently, Hill is the Chief Executive Officer of AJH, Inc. dba McDonald's overseeing all facets of running the business' two McDonald's franchises in Columbus, Ohio.

Hill joined the McDonald's family as a franchise owner in 2008 after a 12-month immersion program. While pursuing this on-the-job training in Rochester, Mich., a requirement of all prospective franchise owners, Hill learned the details of every job in the restaurant. This experience, coupled with a business acumen honed over 20 years in the automotive industry, helped Hill successfully navigate her restaurants through launch, turnaround and growth modes. She is a current board member of the Central Ohio/Owner Operators CO-OP, board member of the Ohio Regional Leadership Council and the vice president of the Ohio Regional Black McDonald's Operators Association. Her role with the latter includes encouraging fiscal empowerment among her fellow owner/operators.



Prior to joining the McDonald's family, Hill owned and operated a Chevrolet dealership in Amherst, NY, where she significantly improved profitability and customer satisfaction ratings. Her entree into dealership ownership came on the heels of 26 years at General Motors where she held a range of leadership roles in sales and marketing and business development. Her success in each subsequent role at GM earned Hill a reputation for driving results. In 2002, GM thus invited her to participate in its Women's Retail Initiative Program aimed at growing the number of female dealership owners around the country. Upon the program's completion, Hill became one of the first African American women to own a Chevrolet dealership in Buffalo, NY.

A native of Columbus, Ga., Hill spent most of her formative years in Michigan. She earned her bachelor's degree in business from Western Michigan University and went on to earn her master's degree from Central Michigan University in business management. Upon graduation, Hill was actively recruited by GM.

These days, Hill is involved with a number of philanthropic causes close to her heart. Among them is the Ronald McDonald House of which she is a board member. She is an active member of The Links, Incorporated, a volunteer service organization committed to ensuring the culture and economic survival of African Americans. She is also a member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Hill also enjoys her role as mentor to the young people working in her restaurants. She offers a number of annual scholarships to her staff and provides other support to help her team members further their education.

Hill has previously held board membership positions with the American Heart Association; the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; the Buffalo Chamber of Commerce; and the Heritage Center, an organization dedicated to serving the needs of individuals with developmental disabilities. She is also a past recipient of YWCA's Women of Achievement Award.

Despite a career laden with accomplishment, Hill is most proud of her role as mother to her two grown sons, Andre and Jermaine.