

Pioneer Hall of Fame: William M. Hammitt, class of 1959



University High School honors William M. Hammitt, class of 1959, as a 2011 inductee to the Pioneer Hall of Fame for his contribution and service to families and children in Central Illinois.

Hammitt received his bachelor's degree from Illinois State University in business education and economics. For forty-four years, Hammitt served at The Baby Fold, which is a local organization focused on improving the lives of children and families by providing adoption services, foster care, residential care, special education, and family and community services. During his career at The Baby Fold, Hammitt managed financial operations, buildings and maintenance, and oversaw the technology department. His final project included the oversight of a \$7.5 million remodel and construction project of The Baby Fold's facilities.

Hammitt also served on the Normal Town Council during the tenure of Mayor Richard Godfrey from 1970-1983. During his public service, Hammitt served as Mayor Pro Tem, member of the ISU/Unit 5 – Town Liaison Committee, Board of Local Improvements, Town Building Committee, and chair of the 125th Anniversary Committee.

Hammitt was also a leader of the Normal Chamber of Commerce, serving as its secretary, chair of the annual dinner committee, and recipient of the chamber's Outstanding Citizen Award. He was a charter member of the Normal Lions Club, recipient of the Community Builders Award from the Normal Masonic Lodge #673, and chair of the Normal Safety Committee, which brought crossing guards to schools in Normal.

Hammitt has also served as a leader in his local church and denomination. For the past thirty-two years, he served as a lay delegate to the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. He also served on the board of directors of the Preachers' Aid Society of the Illinois Great Rivers Annual Conference, as well as on the United Methodist Ministries Credit Union Board. He served in numerous positions as a sixty-four year member of the First United Methodist Church of Normal.

Hammitt and his wife, Jean, continue to reside in Normal.