

Garden Pathways

2010 "Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield"

Kim Albers



Kim Albers has a heart of boundless compassion for the hurting, the vulnerable, and the marginalized. Kim deeply feels their pain. She is moved by their suffering, but beyond emotion, Kim resolutely translates her compassion into purposeful action through ceaseless advocacy and enterprising work. A consummate problem solver, Kim brings unending energy and indefatigable tenacity to every project. Kim gets things done. With an amazing ability to quickly rally the masses to accomplish enormous undertakings, Kim also takes the time to caringly address individual needs.

As co-founder and director of Flood Bakersfield Ministries, Kim adeptly leads expanding initiatives to battle homelessness through long-term relationships that meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the deeply impoverished. Kim's fervent passion for the hurting has mobilized hundreds of volunteers for Saturday night outreaches that weekly serve 300-400 guests who experience a live worship band, hear Biblical teaching, and share a hot meal. In 2009, over 3,300 unduplicated individuals received groceries during the outreaches.

Throughout the week, Kim personally navigates families and individuals in crisis to community resources to empower them to take steps to overcome their circumstances. Kim spends most of her days with those suffering and recovering from methamphetamine addiction, mental illness, physical and sexual abuse, and those who have lost all stability in their lives through homelessness. Through Flood's collaboration with Garden Pathways, Kim connects those who want to be mentored with caring individuals who build lasting relationships.

Kim has initiated a 12-block graffiti wash program to eradicate graffiti in the 34th Street neighborhood. The program removes graffiti tags, along with small and large debris, through daily volunteerism and large-group community work days. Additionally, Kim administers an emergency assistance program that offers financial assistance and emotional support to prevent homelessness and provides family stability. With her ardent passion to battle homelessness, Kim serves as vice chair of the Kern County Homeless Collaborative and co-chair of community outreach for the 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness in Kern County Committee.

Kim liberally has given of her time at Stockdale Christian \cong serving both as president and junior high coordinator of the Parent Teacher Fellowship School. Kim was instrumental in fundraising efforts and enriching each student's experience.

Kim has been married to David, a third generation dairy farmer and an attorney for 19 year. They have two energetic teenagers, David Jr., 18, an incoming a freshman at Iowa State University, and Kirsten, 16, a senior at Bakersfield Christian High School.