

# Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield

## Edna Cornforth



Edna Cornforth has a heart of abundant generosity and service. She gives of her time, talents, and treasures to enrich both individuals and our community. Leading by example, Edna brings out the best in each through personal service and her caring spirit.

Edna inspires others as she devotes herself to causes and charities to which she is passionately committed. Among many are San Joaquin Community Hospital Foundation as a board member, providing funding and special services to the AIS Cancer Center, funding for the Women's Center at Quest Imaging. Her philanthropies focus on charities which have enhanced Bakersfield, making it a better place to live and raise our children, "our future." Among these are Bakersfield Homeless Center, Garden Pathways, Global Families, American Cancer Society's ADRA Relief Agency, and the Red Cross. Each is evidence of Edna's heart for others.

In 1993, Edna established a local medical billing company which she managed through 2003. True to her heart, this was more than an occupation; it was a commitment to the physicians she served, allowing them to practice medicine. Managing her business, as she modeled development from her heart, an ethos was born. A unique corporate culture emerged of leading by example, teaching respect, empathy, and sensitivity to the feelings of fellow employees. Edna created a work environment which stimulated the personal growth of individuals, bringing out the best in each employee. One of her favorite activities was to use her businesses to encourage young people to pursue their education, training them to become knowledgeable, dependable, and productive employees. Consequently, several of her employees eventually received their degrees in medical coding and went on to rewarding careers in large medical groups and hospitals.

Edna continues to serve the medical profession through her fine management of credentialing and medical billing.

Edna achieved her R.N. degree with B.S. in Nursing at Union College, in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1963. After receiving her nursing degree, she worked as a clinical nurse in physician offices and various hospitals for over 10 years. Her teaching and compassionate heart was confirmed at the Denver campus of Union College School of Nursing through influence on her students.

Dr. Cornforth and Edna celebrate joyously their 53 years of marriage. They met while in college and were good friends before they started dating. They remain so close that it is hard for Edna to describe who she is without mentioning him. That love has contributed to the support she has played in his great medical career, "He is an awesome radiology physician and I come along for the ride. It isn't often that a husband and wife can work side by side successfully. My being an RN made it possible for me to understand what being a physician entails. So in reality, I have spent my life trying to complement his," she states humbly. Together they have "two of the most wonderful children in the world" who in turn have two children each. While she enjoys special time of travel, music, and reading, today, one of the loveliest names she is called is "Grammie."

