

Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield

Cynthia Icardo



Cynthia Icardo has a passionate heart for education, art, and the preservation of culture. Through her abundant voluntarism and advocacy in diverse arenas, Cynthia gives utmost priority to the well-being of her community. Cynthia's heart thrives in celebrating the rich history of Kern County and by founding much needed community services for all.

Cynthia advanced the education of young people as a teacher at Gorman Elementary School, and as a substitute teacher for Kern High School District and Bakersfield City School District. She served recently as co-chair of the Kern High School's Boundary Committee and on the Advisory Committee for Kern Adult School.

Advocating for crime victims, Cynthia was instrumental in starting the Victim Witness Program in conjunction with the Kern County Probation Department. She served on the Kern County Grand Jury from 1985-1986 and on its Education Committee which reviewed the status of the County's educational institutions, library system, and museums.

Cynthia has championed and supported a broad spectrum of community causes, including American Cancer Society Discovery Shop, Bakersfield Museum of Art (board of directors, Art-A-Go Go fundraiser chair, Blue Ribbon Circle steering committee which seeks to provide additional funding to meet the educational and program goals of the museum), Kern County Museum Foundation (Ellen Baker Tracy Guild that promotes Kern County's rich

history and provides improvements to the museum), Lori Brock Museum (docent, summer enrichment program director), Bakersfield Californian Foundation (grants committee), and the Catherine McCauley Society which provides medical equipment for Mercy Hospital through personal contributions.

A gratifying experience for Cynthia was co-chairing the first Bakersfield Women's Business Conference and serving as a mentor in the R.O.S.E. Mentor program (Realizing Options for Student Excellence). Since 1980, Cynthia has been a proud member of Junior League of Bakersfield (president, community vice president, 50th anniversary grant committee chair) and continues in Sustainer Status today.

She met her husband Gary while attending college and they married after graduation. In August 2016, they will celebrate 46 years of marriage. The first 17 years of marriage was spent on their Mettler, California farm and they continue in farming and ag-related businesses with their son Adam and his wife Christine.

Cynthia enjoys traveling, collecting art, and opening her home to French exchange students. Cynthia cherishes spending time with her three grandsons, Dominic, Evan, and Clayton.

