

# Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield

## Nancy Chaffin



Nancy Chaffin has a heart to give opportunity to others. Nancy fervently champions opportunities for people from all backgrounds to reach their potential and fulfill their dreams. Nancy's desire to create a positive future for young people propels her heartfelt and abundant community service.

Passionate about education and leadership development,

Nancy opens doors that provide young people with meaningful experiences and lessons that carry them through life. She inspires others to make informed choices, lead, and serve—conveying her conviction that everyone can make a difference. Nancy has compassionately advocated on behalf of marginalized youth, the vulnerable, and individuals who face the challenges of limited literacy.

Nancy chose to rise above a devastating personal tragedy and translate pain into an opportunity to save the lives of others. Following the 2001 death of her son Jeff in a car crash, Nancy partnered with law enforcement to create “A Life Interrupted,” an award-winning teen driving program that encourages responsible decision making. Since 2002, Nancy, founder and past president of the nonprofit, has shared the story of her beloved son with thousands of teens and numerous community groups to deter people from reckless driving while distracted or under the influence.

Nancy's copious community service spans many arenas. She serves on the board of Girl Scouts of Central California South (“Women Inspiring Girls” committee chair) and Kern Literacy Council, and on the leadership board of American Lung Association. Additionally, Nancy volunteers on the vision committee of the Kern Community Foundation Women's and Girls' Fund and on committees of CSUB Alumni Hall of Fame (founding member and former chair) and BARC Celebrity Waiters. She previously served on the boards of CASA of Kern County, Junior Achievement, and CSUB Alumni Association (past president, treasurer, Hall of Fame committee chair), and on committees of the Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce (Leadership Bakersfield Advisory Council, Beautiful

Bakersfield committee, labor and employment law committee chair).

A Bakersfield native, Nancy loves Bakersfield. “It's my home. I want to make it a better place.” Nancy's extensive contributions to her community have been recognized with the Girl Scouts of Central California South's “Meg Barnes Award” 2015; California State University Bakersfield “Alumni Hall of Fame” induction, 2012; California Women Lead's “Kern County Woman of Distinction Award,” 2011; and three Beautiful Bakersfield awards for “A Life Interrupted.”

As vice president of operations and administration at *The Bakersfield Californian*, Nancy oversees the human resources and press and production divisions, as well as building and fleet maintenance. Her colleagues describe Nancy as a trusted, loyal, and intelligent problem solver and leader.

Nancy holds an associate of arts degree from Bakersfield College and a bachelor of science degree in business administration from California State University, Bakersfield. She expresses much gratitude to her employer, *The Bakersfield Californian*, for its strong support that enabled her to re-enter college as a working single mother of two. Nancy credits CSUB for changing her life, not only through quality education, but through the people she met.

Nancy celebrated her marriage to Bob Joy in March 2015. She is the mother of Stefanie and Jeff, and the proud grandmother of Sofia and Allison. Nancy's parents serve as her inspiration for community involvement. “My parents instilled in me that we should all reach out to others in our community and share the good things we are given in this life.”