

Garden Pathways

2008 *"Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield"*

Annie Everly



Annie Everly's selfless heart embodies the benevolent spirit of a true servant leader. Renowned as a helper of the poor who spends countless hours on the streets providing food to those in need and improving their lives, Annie also has been a sought-out consultant for her expertise in community mobilization and empowerment.

For over twenty years, Annie faithfully has served satisfying meals several times a week at the corner of Lakeview Avenue and Murdock Street, and more recently at Lakeview and De Wolfe, to less fortunate residents of southeast Bakersfield. Neither sweltering heat nor biting winter chill can deter the non-nonsense and pragmatic "Miss Annie" from her mission of caring. Annie declares, "You learn to do what you can do." Not only do the poor and the homeless leave with full stomachs, Annie ensures that they receive social service and medical referrals, as well as a healthy dose of respect and encouragement.

A lifelong resident of Bakersfield, Annie has chosen to continue to live in her beloved southeast neighborhood and deepen her relationships with those she devotedly serves. No other community servant has exceeded her longevity and consistency in meeting the needs of the marginalized and abandoned of her neighborhood. Over the years, when local philanthropic organizations have sought to understand the unique needs of southeast Bakersfield, Annie has capably conveyed the heartbeat of her community from first-hand experience.

A successful nurse and health care provider for over forty years, Annie has guided social workers and outreach workers to effectively link families to germane social services. Annie has served as a consultant to the Kern County Department of Human Services, the California Department of Public Health, and the Kern County Department of Public Health. She has served as director of Beacon House, chairperson of the Bakersfield branch of NAACP, member of the Local Bakersfield Police Community Liaison committee, and has been chairperson of the Black Infant Health Coalition for over twenty years. Annie received recognition as the first Public Health Hero of Kern County.

Annie generously volunteers twenty hours a week as the administrator of Pleasant View Baptist Church where she has been a lifetime member. She oversees the outreach programs that provide ongoing social support and empowerment to anyone in the community who needs assistance.

With five sisters and five brothers, Annie grew up in a lively household. She is the proud mother of two sons and is the beloved "grandmother" of many. Annie enjoys tending to her beautiful English garden with its lush shrubberies and fragrant blossoms.