

Garden Pathways

2008 *"Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield"*

Ann Hansen



Ann Hansen's heart exuberantly sings of her incredible love for others. Always effervescent and a carrier of joy, Ann makes people feel good wherever she goes. Ann's endearing qualities can only be matched by her ardent dedication to responsibility and integrity as she invests her life in improving our community. The consummate volunteer, Ann uncompromisingly produces results of the highest caliber in her diverse areas of community service.

Ann has a passion to see the youth of our community thrive. She assists with the Ford Dimension/Dream Builders program of Jim Burke Ford for achieving high school seniors with a focus on civic responsibility, life skills, and leadership development. Ann is one of the founders of the Self-Esteem Council/Teen Enrichment program that mentors tenth-grade girls to live their dreams and guides them to handle adversity with dignity and grace.

As puppeteer trainer and former president of Kids on the Block, Ann enables fourth graders throughout Kern County to learn about disabilities through the eyes of disabled puppets. Ann's caring heart for children is also reflected in her ten years of service on the board of Community Connection for Child Care Foundation, where she chaired and championed fundraising initiatives. As a CASA volunteer, Ann shared her love through advocacy on behalf of children without families. Recognized as "Volunteer of the Year," Ann has been active since 1989 in Junior League of Bakersfield where she devotes many hours of service. Ann also gives of her time at St. Phillip's Catholic Church. Very proud of her faith as a Catholic Christian, Ann serves as a reader at Sunday Masses and has volunteered in the youth education programs.

At Stockdale Elementary, Actis Jr. High, and Bakersfield High, Ann's efforts in the parent groups became renowned. Her ongoing involvement in the lives of her children immersed her in scouting, where she served as Cub Scout den mother and later, assistant Boy Scout Leader. In 1997, Ann was inducted into Order of the Arrow, the national honor society of the Boy Scouts of America.

Born in San Francisco, Ann attended City College of San Francisco. After living in Hawaii, northern and southern California, and Nevada, Ann and her dynamic husband, Flemming moved to Bakersfield in 1985 with sons Ryan and Joseph. They enthusiastically traveled to every one of Ryan's University of Pittsburgh football games. Ann proudly cheered with elation when Joseph earned a gold medal in the men's eight rowing at the Rome Olympics. Ann loves to travel around the world and to snow ski at her Tahoe home. A fine cook, Ann lovingly prepares beautiful family dinners every night. Ann takes great joy in gardening, exercising, walking her boxer, Scarlet, sewing, and reading biographies. Ann's three beautiful grandchildren bring her much delight. Ann relishes her wonderful life, as "the happiest girl in the whole U.S.A."