

Garden Pathways

2006 "Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield"

Virginia Kirschenman



Virginia Kirschenman has a very big heart for Bakersfield. Her very big house with the big yard and big trees, which she so generously shares with our community for events, dwarfs in comparison to the expansiveness of Ginny's very big heart. With a caring, humble spirit, Ginny has freely given of herself to those in our community who are of the greatest need.

Ginny's very big heart extends to people of all ages. As an elementary school teacher and a Blue Bird and Girl Scout leader, she mentored and shaped the lives of many youth. Using puppets in the Kids on the Block program, Ginny was part of a team that helped children in schools throughout our community grow in their understanding of others. Her puppet character, a child with cancer, enabled youngsters to empathize and relate to people with cancer. A forty-year member of Junior League of Bakersfield, Ginny has served in numerous offices, including president, board member and as a three-term sustainer chair of Bakersfield Community House where seniors can socialize to keep their minds and bodies active. Ginny's community service also includes serving on the board of California Living Museum for fifteen years, facilitating fund raisers for the American Cancer Society and CASA, supporting the Bakersfield Museum of Art in the Blue Ribbon Circle, serving as president of the Kern High School Parent Council, and ongoing involvement in Beta Sigma Phi since 1957. Ginny also has been an active member of Bible Study Fellowship for twenty years and was a class discussion leader for four of those years.

A native of Middletown, New York, where she taught elementary school, Ginny has embraced life as a farmer's wife in Bakersfield. Ginny calls Bakersfield her home and considers this to be the best place for her family to live and thrive. The greatest blessings in her life are the special people God has sent her way — her lovely family and wonderful friends. She and her husband of nearly 47 years delight in their three married children, Karrie Camp, Lora Dixon, and Wayne Kirschenman, five of the greatest grandchildren, and the birth of a new grandbaby in August.