

Garden Pathways

2008 "Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield"

Judi McCarthy



Judi McCarthy has a heart for excellence – excellence in caring, excellence in serving, and excellence in purposeful living. Judi's unrelenting passion for excellence permeates the abundant expressions of her exceptional service and leadership in our community. Judi brings insightful vision, pragmatism, and ardent dedication to a vast array of charitable undertakings that enrich our community.

As founding organizer of the Women's & Girls' Fund of Kern County, Judi seeks to transform the lives of women and girls in Kern County by mobilizing women to work together through collective giving. Her focused leadership, keen intellect, and resolute volunteer efforts have enabled the fund to amass an endowment that has far exceeded the initial goals of the Kern Community Foundation. In 2004, Judi established the Vision Committee to create the fund to which over 300 donors have contributed to meet the needs of women and girls. The vision became a reality in 2008 as three organizations received the inaugural grants. With the fund well developed, along with the initiation of the "Women Defining Philanthropy" recognition program, Judi now fervently focuses her energy in leading research efforts, outreach, and grant making initiatives. In addition to her pivotal role with the Women's & Girls' Fund, Judi has served as director of the Kern Community Foundation since 2004. Currently vice chairman of the board, Judi will become chairman in January 2009.

Since she moved to Bakersfield in 1982, Judi, a munificent volunteer, has given of her time unceasingly and unstintingly. Joining the Junior League in 1987 and placed in various fundraising and community positions, Judi is now a Sustainer. Additionally, Judi serves as corresponding secretary for P.E.O. Chapter HY. During the school years of her children, Judi liberally volunteered in numerous capacities as president, secretary, and committee chair of the parent clubs at Garces Memorial High School, Tevis Junior High School, and Centennial Elementary School. She served as den and pack leader and fundraising chair for Boy Scouts. Judi also actively participated on the board and as a docent of the Lori Brock Children's Museum.

Born in Los Angeles and raised in a United States Marine Corps family, Judi moved seventeen times by age eighteen. After completing high school in Hawaii, Judi returned to Los Angeles where she graduated *magna cum laude* and received a secondary teaching credential from Occidental College. Judi has been married for twenty-seven years to Rob ("the most intelligent person I've ever met"). She is the proud mother of twentysomethings Rob IV and Katie. Judi infuses excellence into her brief moments of respite as she enjoys vacation homes in Avila Valley and the Big Island of Hawaii, theatre, opera, and gourmet cooking. A voracious reader, Judi daily consumes popular fiction and biographies as she dotes on her labs, Lucy and Riley.