

Garden Pathways

2006 "Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield"

Barbara Patrick



As a devoted educator and public servant with a heart for the ordinary citizens of Kern County, **Supervisor Barbara Patrick** has opened doors of extraordinary opportunity. She has inspired the ordinary student to reach for extraordinary greatness. A strong proponent of government by ordinary citizens, Supervisor Patrick has given a voice to ordinary people – serving as a champion to improve and elevate the quality of life for our community.

During her twenty years as a teacher in the Bakersfield City School District, Barbara shaped the lives of hundreds of elementary children as she guided them to develop life-long skills and discover their own potential. Considering herself to be an ordinary person who was in touch with the ordinary citizen, Barbara stepped forward as a candidate to represent her community and address its needs. She was elected to the Kern County Board of Supervisors in 1994 and is serving as Chairman of the Board for the third time.

Barbara's caring heart for others has enriched our community through her far-reaching scope of influence as well as by taking on the most humble of tasks, including cleaning toilets at Garden Pathways during United Way's Day of Caring. Barbara has served on the Board of Directors of United Way and Options Unlimited. Her current community involvements include Greater Bakersfield Vision 2020, American Association of University Women, North of the River Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Oildale Community Partnership, 34th Street Neighborhood Partnership, East Bakersfield Community Coalition, and One Book, One Bakersfield.

Barbara has received numerous honors for her leadership in making a positive difference in our community, including the Soroptomist International Woman of Distinction Award and the Kern Council of Governments' Regional Award of Merit for Distinguished Leadership. Barbara's proudest achievements are her two daughters, Erin and Meredith.