



Barbara Fehrmann

(1942 -)

“Being kind to somebody means, usually, somebody’s going to be kind to you.” Barbara Fehrmann’s focus on being compassionate and kind has inspired her to volunteer for her friends and the community. Born in Tilsit Germany in 1942, Barbara and her family immigrated to Canada in 1954 and settled in Calgary.

Although English was a steep learning curve, Barbara soon began to excel at reading, history and geography. After graduating from high school in 1961, she landed a job at the Royal Bank embarking on a successful career in banking that spanned over two decades. At the age of 29, she became one of the first female branch managers, setting an important precedent for women. The nature of her job allowed her to work in many different places -- one of which was Mission, where she was transferred in 1979 to conduct personal lending during the lumber boom.

After the death of a friend of hers in 1982, she moved in with two teenaged children - Tory and Karen - to care for them. She recalls that everything changed at that time because all of a sudden she had to balance caring for children and a heavy work schedule.

In 1983 she married Laurence Eversole and left Mission to live in Anaheim, California. There she worked at her husband’s home-based business which was very successful. After ten years, however, Barbara decided to leave the marriage and return to Canada.

Since her return to Mission, Barbara has been heavily active in the community especially due to the influence of Valerie Hundert – a friend with whom she shared a special bond. Today, she is still a busy volunteer while working at part-time jobs. Currently on the executive at Mission Association for Senior Housing (MASH) and the Mission & District Senior Citizens Housing Association who operate Welton Towers, she is committed to improving the living situations of senior citizens in the community. Her advocacy for the Life Lease Program and over two decades of dedicated volunteer service to Mission earned her a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.

Local heritage is another area in which Barbara volunteers. She was involved with the Mission Heritage Association for over ten years, assisted with the annual Heritage Week Pioneer Tea, and still volunteers for the Mission Community Archives. Barbara constantly lends a hand when those around her are in need whether as a volunteer or a caregiver. For her tireless volunteerism to a wide variety of causes and organizations within the community she was named a *Freeman of the City* in 2016.

Despite her busy schedule Barbara tries to read a little bit every day and is ever in search of a good cup of coffee. Her personal motto is, “just be kind to people - help them where you can.” Her work ethic and proactive nature have benefitted those around her as well as the community at large. When asked what she sees herself doing next, Barbara simply states that she wants to continue the work she’s started.

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