

Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield

Barbara Grimm-Marshall



Barbara Grimm-Marshall has a heart for education and service. She also makes a big impression as co-owner of Grimmway Enterprises, the world's largest grower, packer and shipper of fresh, processed and frozen carrots, as well as Cal-Organic Farms, the largest organic farming operation in the state of California.

Apart from those massive operations, Barbara firmly believes in pursuing a balance in life.

Barbara's appreciation for the value of education led her to serve as President of the Rod Grimm Family Foundation. In this capacity, she oversees the distribution of funds to develop and implement scholastic, athletic, and music programs at a variety of public and secondary schools throughout Kern County, as well as Bakersfield College, California State University Bakersfield and Concordia University. Through this experience, Barbara discovered that many students living in Kern County's rural communities were not proficient in core subjects and were lacking the skills necessary to prepare them for college. Of equal importance is her concern for childhood obesity and the poor nutritional habits of many of today's families. As a result, Barbara founded and serves as the CEO of the Grimm Family Education Foundation.

The Foundation has two main objectives. First, through its charter school, Grimmway Academy, the Foundation sets out to provide students with the opportunity to develop skills that will prepare them for academic success and future endeavors. Second, through its Edible Schoolyard program, the Foundation teaches children how to incorporate sound nutritional choices into their diets creating healthy habits that will last a lifetime. This unique garden growing experience allows students through their collective efforts to watch something grow from a seedling into something

healthy and delicious to eat. Barbara believes that there is nothing more important than the education and enrichment of our children, for their own personal success and for the strength and future of our communities. Through the Grimm Family Education Foundation, she transforms belief into action, and hopes to make a difference in children's lives that will have a long-lasting and positive impact.

Barbara has a special fondness for community involvement and philanthropic activities, as evidenced by her time given to numerous community organizations in Kern County over the past 25 years. She has served with the Lori Brock Children's Museum, American Red Cross, St. John's Lutheran Church and California State University Foundation. In addition, she served on the Board of Regents of Concordia University in Irvine, California, and also served on the Board of Directors for Tejon Ranch Corporation.

Barbara earned her B.A. from Stephen's College in Columbia, Missouri, and a law degree from Western State University of Law in Fullerton, California. Professionally, she has worked as a real estate government relations specialist and administered community development block grant programs for the City of Palm Springs. She then ran her own consulting business, Grimm & Associates, specializing in employee training programs.