

Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield

Mary Christenson



Mary Christenson is a leading real estate professional with a passion for the advancement of women. Described as having a gracious heart of gold and a tender spirit, Mary hosts and plans many professional events and enrichment activities for realtors as well as others in her sphere of influence. She has received numerous professional achievement

awards.

Mary has impacted the lives of many women in her profession through many leadership responsibilities in the Women's Council of Realtors, the 12th largest professional women's organization in the nation. She serves at the California State chapter level as the 2011 District Vice President, and previously as 2010 Governor and 2007 President of the Bakersfield Chapter. She remains an active local member, publishing their monthly newsletter. Many of our areas top realtors benefit from the networking and professional leadership development provided.

Friends say that Mary is incredibly complex and simple at the same time. They see her at one moment functioning as a sophisticated, well-connected and highly successful real estate professional and at the next moment being a doting grandma, loving mother, caring wife and dear friend. She's an avid social media fan as well as a desktop publisher of her own marketing materials. She loves entertaining, photography, decorating, and shares her sewing skills. She's an avid reader. Mary is always learning. With commitment to philanthropy and fulfilling her role as "the ultimate networker," Mary rallies people behind worthy causes such as Kern Community Foundation Women's and Girls' Fund, Alliance Against Family Violence and Sexual Assault, CASA of Kern County and Bakersfield Homeless

Shelter.

This year, Mary bravely shared her own story of sexual assault in an effort to promote awareness of this issue in our community and inspire transparency. It has taken twenty years following a sexual assault while working for Mary to be able to talk publicly about this experience. She hopes that as she continues to speak out that many others in our community who feel trapped in silence and without a voice will find strength to heal and in turn, also become a voice of hope. Mary also actively participates in Bakersfield's Association of Petroleum Wives, a non-profit organization whose goal is to promote friendship and moral support between women whose husbands are in the oil industry and are frequently relocated all over the world. Mary has published their colorful monthly newsletter for over 10 years. The local group is very active in supporting local non-profits, raising funds annually to donate approx. \$25,000 per year to selected charities. Mary is married to former oil executive Tom Christenson, now a master craftsman of wood in our community. She and Tom have three daughters, Jennifer, Julie and Megan, a son Steve, plus six grandchildren, Kamryn, 19, Kyleigh 18, Ava 8, and Jackson, 5, plus Houston granddaughters Hannah and Paige.

