

# Woman with a Heart for Bakersfield

## Kay Pitts



**Kay Pitts** is a giver at heart. Described by those who know her as one who “gives and gives and then gives more,” her seemingly endless resume of involvement in community and professional organizations and committees bears testimony to that fact. Kay also is described as a quiet but effective leader who engages directly and personally

with individuals in a wide range of settings. County, state and national settings notwithstanding, Kay Pitts has a true heart for Bakersfield, her home for more than three decades.

The breadth of Kay’s civic and professional involvement and leadership is quite remarkable and has left an indelible mark on individuals and the community as a whole. A continuous thread throughout her many years of community service has been Kay’s commitment to mentoring young women. A particularly compelling example of her impact occurred in 2010 when the Greater Bakersfield Vision 2020 Facilitation (Leadership) Team launched the “half-way point” update of the Vision and Strategic Action Plan. Kay raised her hand to lead the effort, and in a concerted effort to identify, recruit, and train the next generation of leadership, Kay selected four young professional and emerging leaders to conduct the update. Under Kay’s guidance and mentoring, the team accomplished a very challenging task and distinguished themselves as leaders in the process.

A graduate of Leadership Bakersfield, Kay served seven years as a Kern County Planning Commissioner. She has held leadership roles in her Rotary club (Breakfast Rotary), the American Association of University Women, Bakers-

field Vision 2020, Leadership Bakersfield, and California Women Lead. Most recently, Kay has added the Grants Committee of the Kern Community Foundation Women’s and Girls’ Fund and the Mentor Program of the Alliance of Women in Energy to her community service. She is also a Charter Member of the United Way of Kern County Women’s Leadership Council.

In her professional experience, she is a highly recognized and accomplished individual and has received many honors and awards. In 2004, Kay received the Pacific Section American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) Distinguished Member and American Association of University of Women Named Gift Honoree awards. In 2008, she received the Pacific Section AAPG Honorary Life Membership award, and in 2007 and 2010 was recognized with the AAPG Certificate of Merit awards. Kay is the Annual Convention General Chair for the AAPG and previously served as Association treasurer and Convention General vice-chair.

For over 30 years, Kay has worked in the field of geology in various capacities and currently holds the position of Business Resources Program Manager with Aera Energy LLC. Kay married Brian Pitts right after moving to Bakersfield 32 years ago. Both having worked for major oil companies, Kay and Brian consider themselves fortunate to have been able to stay in Bakersfield for their entire careers.