

Nancy K. Heitman

Stanton

A 44-year resident of Stanton, community activist Nancy Heitman says she “pokes her nose into everything.”

It may have been her “poking” that led former city councilman Joe Harris to invite her in 1993 to submit an application for membership on the city’s Parks and Recreation Commission, a post she’s held ever since. In her job, Heitman has had an opportunity to give input into community service activities, as well as work more closely with other community organizations.

Through the Stanton Collaborative, a group of representatives from several community organizations, Heitman gets involved with various activities, especially for children. At Halloween, she works on the Fun with Family and Friends event, and in the summer she’s involved with Summer Fest, a day which features games and music for kids. During winter, she participates with Christmas in the City, an event that provides mounds of snow for the children to play in as well as game booths, and an appearance of Santa Claus. The event culminates with the lighting of a Christmas tree.

Children are again the focus with Santa’s Siren, another event with which she has been involved. Sponsored by the Youth Assistance Foundation, police and fire personnel join

other community activists to make sure that children living in the impoverished areas of the community get a holiday toy from Santa Claus. A fire truck filled with toys makes the rounds while volunteers pass out the presents to the children.

Working to improve the lives of children has long been at the top of her priorities. It was 1965 when Heitman and her family moved to Stanton, and it was that very year that she also became involved, especially in support of youth. When she enrolled her first child at Bryant Elementary School, she joined the PTA, remaining active when her second and third child also attended the school. In all, she volunteered at the school for 15 years, as a reading specialist aide as well as filling two terms as PTA president.

At Alamitos Junior High School, Heitman volunteered as an aide in the special education program. After five years, the principal told her that a paid aide was leaving and asked her if she would like the paid position. She accepted and for the next five years continued to work with the special education students, although she eventually transferred to Rancho Alamitos High School where she was able to follow many of her former students.

In addition to working with students, Heitman had always taken care of the books and scheduling for her husband's backhoe service company. With the unexpected death of her daughter-in-law, Heitman chose to retire so she could take care of her 18-month old grandson, who is now a student at Cypress College.

As that situation resolved, Heitman found herself back in the community, involved with the Stanton Chamber of Commerce, first as a volunteer and then as a member of the board of directors for the past six years. Today, she is also involved with the chamber's annual Distinguished Services Awards, an honor she has also received from both the Youth Assistance Foundation and Kiwanis.

In 2003, Heitman helped establish the Stanton Kiwanis and has served as secretary for the past five years. She also served for a number of years on the Stanton Committee for the Americana Awards.

Not just children, but women in the community also get a helping hand from Heitman through her involvement with the Stanton Community Service Center/Family Resource Center. Dedicated to assisting families reach their full potential, the organization works with victims of domestic violence, offering referrals, empowerment, information and programs to which they are invited to attend.

A graduate of Stockton High School, Heitman attended Stockton Junior College and after moving to Orange County she studied sign language at Golden West College.

Heitman and her husband, Lowell "Bud", have three children and seven grandchildren. Son Michael and his wife, Aprile, live in Stanton, while daughter, Kristi, and her husband, Don Holm, live in Goleta. Her daughter, Robin, and her husband, Bill, live in Arvada, CO.

