

# City of Stanton

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Pam Schoonover

It is hard enough being a kid today, and to know that others care about you is something that is important and close to my heart,” said Pam Schoonover.

Although she is now the executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Stanton, she has been involved with youth since her children were young—from being involved in the PTA's at the schools her children attended, to player agent for the softball league, to Brownie/Girl Scout Leader and even a Cub Master at one time. She believes that parents need to be involved in what their children are doing.

Pam first went to work as a part-time school aid at Carver Elementary School, where she started a sports program for the fifth and sixth graders. In 1986, she became a resource specialist, working with the Limited English Program in English and Math, and in 1991, she began running the computer lab and library at Peters Elementary School.

In 1982, while working at Carver, she met Bob Williams, then the athletic director from the Boys & Girls Club of Stanton. They became “fast friends,” she said. He helped her, and she began volunteering at the club, both in coaching basketball and by selling fireworks. While Bob's career changed, he continues his involvement as a member of the Boys & Girls Club Board of Directors.

When a part time arts and crafts director position opened at the Boys & Girls Club of Stanton in September 1988, Pam got the job. The following year she was promoted to director of the learning center, a new position that also put her in charge of grant writing and assisting with all major fund-raising. She was soon instrumental in obtaining grants – one from the Weingart Foundation and three Community Service Grants from Disneyland – one each in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

Eleven years later, Pam was hired to replace the retiring executive director. The following year, the club received \$65,000 in grants to renovate and enlarge the Learning Center. In 2001, another Weingart grant allocated funds for the club to redo the air conditioning and heating system, while a grant from the Orange County Sports Foundation allowed the club to replace the basketball backboards with glass.

During this time, the club's dream for a designated space for teenagers was becoming a reality. Robert Pralle, instrumental in the development of the current the Boys & Girls Club, was once again spearheading plans that would enable the club to incorporate a dedicated space for teens.

In addition to her work at the club, Pam is involved with the Stanton Chamber of Commerce Women's Division and the Stanton Lions Club, which she has served as treasurer for the past 10 years. She has been a Stanton Parks and Recreation Commissioner since 2002, and is involved with the Stanton Collaborative, a group of community organizations that work together, making the city a better and safer place.

Locally, Pam has been the recipient of the Dos Manos Management Professional of the Year award given by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Orange County. She has also been named a Melvin Jones Fellow by the Stanton Lions, and in 1987 received the Orange County Education Volunteer Award.

A graduate of Garden Grove High School, Pam attended Santa Ana College and numerous Boys & Girls Clubs of America training sessions.

She and husband, Ken, were high school sweethearts and have been residents of Stanton for 33 years. Their daughter, Barbara, and husband, Kevin Huffman, live in Corona with their three children. Their son, Daniel and his wife, Kelly, live in Santa Ana.