

## Meet New Member Karen Parson Bettencourt

The one factor that attracted Karen Parson Bettencourt, one of our newest members, to NMK? She is unabashedly all about kids. As are we.

For openers, Karen is the mother of four and grandmother of two. She ran a day care for 25 years after finishing school. She also was a Stanislaus and Merced Counties foster mom for seven years after that. Running the numbers, that's more than 60 foster kids, including, at one time, a total of seven kids under her wing.

Karen, born in Castro Valley, graduated from Patterson High School, Class of 1979. Next came a bachelor's degree in business from the old Valley Commercial College in Modesto in 1984 followed up by more than 30 years in the kid business.

She joined Image Imprint, the late former club member Kevin Silva's t-shirt business, as a bookkeeper in 2015. The business is now called i2 Print and Karen is vice president operations/owner. All this sound familiar? They have been doing our car show t-shirts for years. Karen says her goal is to keep Kevin's legacy going.

Karen is mom to Blake, 30, Jordan, 26, Andrew, 12, and Elijah, 10, and grandmother to Emily and Brantley. Andrew and Elijah were adopted by Karen as a single mom.

Although this is Karen's first community service organization, she will admit to logging years of community outreach/fundraising activities with Central Catholic High School and St. Stan's Elementary School.

When not working or rearing kids, Karen lists hobbies that include gardening, decorating and travel.

Karen's apron is ready for signing. Be sure to seek her out and welcome her to the club. T-Shirt Guru Rich Humble is Karen's sponsor.

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