



PATTY TUDMAN, *recognized for service above self*

Patty Tudman has had a long-standing connection with the Sisters of Notre Dame. She began her relationship by volunteering with the La Reina High School Parent Guild in 2001 and then serving as President of the Parent Guild from 2002 through 2006. For the next few years, Patty was a member of the La Reina staff as Director of Parent Relations. In each of these roles, her selfless dedication was an inspiration to everyone who worked with her.

As a member of the La Reina community, Patty recalls that in her interactions with the sisters, they always exuded an unconditional love and acceptance. Patty fondly remembers these years: “I was born and raised in Georgia as part of a large family. Living in California and being separated from my family was difficult at times, but the sisters, La Reina community, and my church filled the void.” Being a Methodist herself, Patty recalls the responses she received when individuals inquired about her daughter, Emily, attending a Catholic school. Patty’s response to them was simple, “La Reina and the SND’s make Emily and me better Methodists. So many examples of God’s love and goodness are everywhere!”

In April of 2009, Patty and Emily decided to move back to Georgia. She began working at a local middle school as the principal’s secretary, school secretary, and bookkeeper. She met the challenges she faced with her characteristic determination. The county in which the school is located is one of the smallest and most poverty-stricken in the state. Fifty percent of the student population currently live in government-subsidized housing.

Patty Tudman recently received the Howard B. Stroud Community Service Award from the Foundation for Excellence in Public Education, Clarke County, Georgia. This award recognizes a school district staff member who places the good of the students and the district above the advancement of self. Patty attributes this recognition to the example of the SNDs, “I would never have received this award without the lessons I learned from the SND’s at La Reina or from my church family at United Methodist Church of Westlake Village.”

And of course you can be sure that Patty will be taking the lead in cheering for the University of Georgia Dawgs in the coming football playoffs!