



Meet Your Mentor Kathy Delaney

My name is Kathy Delaney. I have been a mentor for the Ophelia Project for seven years – two years at Indio Middle School and five years at Indio High School. I have served as a captain four times.

Women's and girl's issues have always been important to me. Now that I'm retired, I finally have the time to give to it. I was drawn to the Ophelia Project because of the mentoring. I had a number of mentors when I first started out and I credit much of my success to their help. I have done a lot of mentoring of other women during my working career. I hope that in some small way, I can make a difference in the lives of my Ophelia girls as they start out on their life's journey.

I love getting to know the girls and watch them grow. Although I enjoyed mentoring at the middle school, I really wanted to be able to follow a girl all the way through high school. I've had the opportunity to watch girls I had in middle school graduate from high school. It's such fun to watch these girls grow, mature and blossom. I have also maintained relationships with some of my Ophelia girls after high school. This year one of my former girls graduated from college! She is amazing. It's very rewarding.

We are fortunate to have three programs here in the desert dedicated to learning for older adults – Osher Lifelong Learning at CSUSB and UCR and Learning in Retirement through COD. I participate in all three programs and go to school almost every day. I always take a literature class or two and have taken classes on opera, art, music, film, photography, and history. My husband and I travel every chance we get and have been to six of the seven continents. Our last big trip was to South America and Antarctica. As soon as the travel restrictions are lifted, we are going to Africa, our final continent to visit. We also travel with our oldest grandsons and last summer we took them to Europe. What a great trip!

Many of the things I like to do have been cancelled, but the pandemic has given me the opportunity to do other things I don't usually do. I am spending more time playing the piano, I'm reading more, I've caught up on some series & movies, and Zoom has been a lifesaver. We have had a family Zoom Easter Dinner, Mother's Day dinner and a birthday party. And in a couple of weeks, my nephew is getting married on Zoom. I've been staying in contact with my grandsons on social media so I feel connected to everyone, which is really important. And my husband is a joy to live with which helps a LOT!