

CARETAKER SPOTLIGHT, KATHY SUMNER, CONTRACT SUPERVISOR

In this month's Caretaker Spotlight, we highlight Kathy Sumner, Contracts Supervisor for Support Services at LBRE. In the role of Contract Service Supervisor she identifies, secures and supports facility services that Stanford does not provide by in-house staff. The group supports the technicians and vendor staff so they are able to work effectively and efficiently on campus. Kathy said, "I meet regularly with our vendors and Stanford staff to ensure the contracted work is compliant and I am always looking for new ways to achieve the highest performance."

Kathy was working as a Teaching Assistant while getting her teaching credential. She had just had her first baby girl when her stepfather (who also worked in the SU mailroom) told her about a temporary position that might turn fulltime. Kathy decided to jump at the opportunity and in August of 1988, she became a permanent employee at Stanford, in Mailing Services. Back then, it was a full service mailroom and they did all your mailing, including packing and stuffing for USPS. They also delivered ID mail across campus as they do today. She started working at Gates in 1997 as a Building Manager Assistant and then came back to LBRE in 2000, working with George Sandoval as the Zone A Administrator. She took on the role of Contracts Administrator along with administrative support. In 2003, Contract Services became their own group, which is where she works today.

Kathy loves working on campus and everything about Stanford; the environment, grounds, architecture, intellectual community, and campus dynamics. She works out regularly at DAPER aerobic facilities and participates in various activities that take place year round. She loves the people she works with and the people she works for; and could not ask for a better place to be.

A typical workday for Kathy is, "being prepared to do everything other than what you planned to do." She likes to get all her ducks in a row before she leaves each night, but on most days, 60-70% is not on the list. Being able to think on your feet, knowing your resources and who you can tap into is a big key to her success. Kathy is happy where she is in life right now and she wouldn't have it any other way. She learns and grows from each decision she makes. She is a forward thinker and always thoughtful about what she can do to improve her future.



Kathy bought her 1907 San Mateo house in 1999 and has done a complete renovation. She knows every nook and cranny and is proud of her accomplishments to improve her home. She has help from LBRE folks when she has questions about building a fence or changing out a garbage disposal, and always has someone to give her sage advice.

Her favorite quote is by Mahatma Gandhi, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world." Kathy agrees, "Don't be a bystander. Be respectful and compassionate towards not only people but the environment."

Explorer is a great way to sum up in one word what Kathy likes to do outside of work. She walks all over the bay area to discover new places like music venues, bookstores and beaches. She enjoys swimming, hiking, walking, running, gardening, cooking and especially family time. Her three daughters Karmel, Macy and Natalie, all bay area college students in their 20's, explore new places together as a family. They especially love cooking new vegan recipes and even keep a cookbook of favorites. Kathy takes her two rescue dogs, a Jack Russell terrier named Dizzle and a Boxer/German mix named Gillie with her whenever she possibly can. She often brings ALL of her family to the Farm. Stanford has been a big part of her work life and her personal life.