

Caretaker Spotlight



This month's Caretaker Spotlight introduces you to Carol Galvin, LBRE Resilience and Response Safety Department as a Safety and Wellness Specialist. Carol was born on the island of Oahu before it was even a state. When she was born it was still a "territory." She had a green card and was registered as an "alien." She now lives in San Mateo, CA.

Carol first worked for Stanford from 1990-1994 as a temporary fixed term employee.

She worked at the old mailroom that was located on Santa Teresa between the Press Building and the Old Firehouse. She returned to Stanford in 2001 after a long hiatus of being a mom, working in construction (tenant improvement, demolition, rebuilding and landscaping) and learning life's lessons, sometimes the hard way. However, she learned and became a much better person for it.

Carol decided to work for Stanford since quite a few of her family members have worked at Stanford at one time or another. Currently her sister (Kathy Sumner), her daughter-in-law, Rebecca Galvin, and her sister-in-law all work at Stanford. In the past her niece, brother and her stepfather have also worked at Stanford. Carol takes great pride in being part of this amazing and prestigious institution we call Stanford. When she really thinks about it, it's the people that she has met, worked for and with that she finds the most enjoyable about her job. When she delivered ID mail on campus, she knew everyone she delivered to personally. She felt like a good will ambassador being able to bring, hopefully good news, a smile and kindness each day.

One day Stanford Transportation asked her and her sister Kathy to be on one of their promotional flyers for carpooling. They thought it was going to be a 9x11 flyer or maybe a small poster. They were carpooling in one day and as they drove across El Camino into campus there was a huge, bigger than life banner with her and her sister on it. They just about fainted and then broke out in hysterical laughter. Everywhere she went on campus people would say, "hey, aren't you the lady on the poster?"





When it comes to Carol's job and what she does, everyday is different. Their unofficial motto in the safety office is "never a dull moment." No two days are alike. Her day could be comprised of incident/accident investigations, confined space entry rescue drills, training, inspections, field observations and her favorite; meeting one-on-one with employees to listen to concerns. She loves to help problem solve and guide those she supports towards the many resources that are available to them. Most of her work these days involves working closely with the Districts.

When you ask Carol if she could start all over again, would she? She would tell you, "I wouldn't change a thing." It took her every step up to this day to make her into the person she is today. The best part is each step led her to a relationship with her higher power and gave her an appreciation for all the blessings she has been gifted with. She never wants to take any of it for granted. However, she would have loved to be a master tradeswoman though. She loves construction, heavy equipment, demolition, landscaping, building, creating and physical work. She does miss wearing a tool belt and working on a job site, it was a blast.



Outside of Stanford she loves to spend time with family and friends. She especially loves it when they cook, make meals together and eat together. She loves to travel, hike/walk (especially with her sister Kathy each morning before work begins), watch movies, volunteer and spend quality time each day connecting with the Lord.

Carol is loving her superfull life that includes three sons, Sean, Kevin and Gabe. Two daughter-in-laws and two grandchildren, Aidan 8 years old and Olivia who is 9 months. Her life and her heart is very full.



You never know what someone is going through, we all go through things. So be kind and if you can't be kind try not to cause harm and make matters worse, says Carol.

Carol's work here will be valued for years to come. Thank you for your service to Stanford and helping build this institution's legacy.

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