

BERRY HONORED FOR LONG SERVICE TO AREA'S YOUTH*

Santa Barbara native Keith Berry is dedicated to serving the community, particularly its youth.

Better known as a realtor for the past 44 years, the former U.S. Navy man, 68, says: "I just thought it the right thing to do!"

Mr. Berry, who is currently a broker with Coldwell Banker, serves on the board of the Channel City Club and the Santa Barbara Region Chamber of Commerce Business Leaders Council.

"It all started with my six children and their activities over the years," he says. "It just snowballed from there. I feel it is a good way of giving back."

Mr. Berry, who has served on the board of trustees for Bishop Garcia Diego High School, as well as being involved with the Hope Ranch Riding and Trails Association, PARC Foundation and South Coast Youth Sports Coalition, says he understands the cultural diversity of the area and appreciates its unique history given he attended local schools.

"It is a unique perspective which has been a great help," he explains.

For many years, Mr. Berry served on the High Five Committee, which raises \$30,000 each year for the five local high schools' athletic programs. His many other associations include the Santa Barbara Historical Society, the Casa del Herrero Foundation, the Pearl Chase Society and the Montecito Trails Association.

In 1996 he was honored as a Hall of Fame recipient by the Santa Barbara Athletic Round Table and over the years has served in various capacities as a volunteer for the Goleta Valley South Little League, the Santa Barbara Youth Football League and the America Youth Soccer Organization.

Keith and his wife, Tina, are also keen supporters of the Santa Barbara Zoo, including being foster feeders to the zoo's otters.

Of his 2008 News-Press Lifetime Achievement Award, Mr. Berry, who received recognition for being one of Coldwell Banker's top 100 southern California agents for many years, says he was very surprised and very shocked.

"I am very humbled by it all," he admits.

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By Richard Mineards