

Adventure is enriching for Pinole Realtor

There are people who wait for adventure to find them... and there are those who create their own adventures- Diane Springer, of Coldwell Banker in Pinole, is definitely the latter.

A native of North Carolina, Diane moved to California after she got married, first moving to Tara Hills and then to the Pinole Valley. Unusual for a Realtor, Diane has lived in the same Pinole home for 30 years- though she is quick to point out that she is renovating so often that it "seems like a new home".

More than changing her home, Diane is changing lives.

Most recently, Diane returned from a two week working trip in a Guatemalan orphanage where she gifted 47 boys (some orphans, some abandoned, many abused) with donated hats, t-shirts, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lanyards, calculators and DVDs ("King Kong" proved very popular).

Previous to this trip, Diane has been and is still involved in the Child Abuse Prevention Council, the Exchange Club of the Pinole-Hercules and serves as a Trauma Interventionist for Crisis Resolutions. She also ran in the June 2005 San Diego Rock & Roll Marathon (where she raised almost \$11,000 for the Leukemia Society), has been a part of Target Holiday Helpers and the Red, White and Blue Day at Bay Park retirement Community, organized Easter Egg Hunts, Crab Feeds, raised monies, as well as lending her hand in various other causes.

Yes, those are just a few of her interests! She has also found time to get certified to teach English as a foreign language, become a certified massage therapist (because she was "curious"), speak at Hercules High School's Career Day... AND maintain her job as a Realtor for the past 30 years, earning plaques declaring her a "multi-million dollar producer" since beginning her real estate career in 1976.

And why, you ask, does Diane do all this and more?

"Because the more you give, the more it enriches your life", responds Diane.

And no truer words are spoken than when Diane talks of her "bonus daughter Rebecca".

First serving as a Court Appointed Specials Advocate (CASA) for

Rebecca about 19 years ago, Diane has gained a daughter. She has seen Rebecca through many crises, as well as many life changing event- such as learning to drive and getting married. When Diane joins a cause, for a group or an individual, she gives it her all. In this case she has devoted many years to Rebecca and in turn Rebecca has given her first "grandchild", Gabriel. Giving has indeed enriched Diane's life.

Even the simplistic life of the 47 boys in Guatemala has given Diane something. It has given her a new perspective on her life... a great appreciation for the simpler things.

"These boys do not care if my hair is done or if I am wearing the same clothes for the third day", says Diane, "they were happy just putting a simple lanyard round their neck". Yet, it is the simplest of things that can bring one happiness.

Diane has also visited the lands of Africa, Amsterdam, Thailand, China, Hong Kong, Greece, Dominica, Panama, Peru, Costa Rica, Germany, France, England, the Turks & Caicos, the Bahamas and Mexico (to name a few)... though her greatest travels have always included children.

And what of her own child, Aaron?

He is a High School Special Education teacher, has been head coach of the Pinole Seals Swim Team during the summer months for the past 6 years, and he has inherited some of Diane's giving nature. At a "We the Planet" concert two years ago, Aaron brought along a backpack of food. Not thinking much of it, Diane was surprised when after the concert Aaron collected some protein bars from concert vendors and handed out sandwiches and protein bars to the homeless on Market Street. Aaron also cooks an extra turkey at Thanksgiving so that he can make plates to give out to those living at a San Francisco underpass.

Diane lovingly refers to her son as her "peaceful warrior", from the book by Dan Millman, where it is explained that "the warrior's life is not about imagined perfection or victory, it's about love".

And it is her love for children that will take Diane back to Guatemala in December. The boys there really touched her heart and she wants to see them



again, let them know that she has not forgotten them. She has 25 new backpacks lined up for them AND she hopes to arrange for each boy to get a new pair of shoes! She is working out the details and cannot wait to see the look on their faces! Diane is truly about bringing simple joys to all those lives she touches.

And, what does a woman like Diane do in her "downtime"?

Well, she reads, runs, hikes, walks, indulges in stained glass, dances (though it has been awhile), dabbles in photography- and, at 6 am on Wednesday mornings, Diane can be found at Ladies Workout Express, on Tara Hills Drive, leading the Boot Camp Workout Class! Yes, she does this for FUN!

Diane is a phenomenal woman who has accomplished more than could be mentioned here. She is not only a successful businesswoman, but a woman who succeeds. She has taken control of her life and has chosen to make a difference in the lives of others. And isn't that what life is about? Seeking new things, experiencing new things... making new friends... and creating memories to last a lifetime.

If any merchants or individuals would like to assist Diane by making a donation (all monetary donations go directly toward children's needs for their return trip to the boys' orphanage in December), please contact her by phone (510) 741-8554 or by email: dispringer@aol.com