The Valley Says Good Bye to Annette Marcum

Bio-m S.C. Mountain Bulletin 2/14

by Wendy Sigmund

The Santa Cruz Mountain communities are still in mourning over the loss of our beloved Annette Marcum on January 11, 2014. Mrs. Marcum founded the Valley Churches United Missions which has been serving community members of the San Lorenzo Valley for more than forty years. Annette Marcum was an extraordinary woman. In addition to the countless hours of volunteer work, and the founding Valley Churches, she also fostered ten developmentally challenged children plus her own biological daughter. Two of the foster children were still in her care at the time of her death.

A Jan. 19 article by *Santa Cruz Sentinel* reporter Kara Guzman states that despite failing health, Marcum never retired from volunteering as director of the nonprofit, which provided food and assistance to more than 7,000 county residents last year, and whose annual Christmas Project has raised more than $10 million for local aid.

So many people in the Valley have been touched by Annette Marcum in one way or another. Some of the services Valley Churches provides are assistance with rent or a power bill, groceries and school supplies. The selfless acts of Annette Marcum can be seen in children's eyes when they show up for school with a new backpack full of school supplies.

Some people in the Valley compared her to Mother Teresa. She was even quoted as saying, "You know, Mother Teresa says this, and I so truly believe it: 'You start your volunteer work in your own home,' and I've done that raising eleven children, and then you go out into your community and churches and then the whole world." If more people lived there life as Annette Marcum had, the world would be a better place to live. She will be dearly missed.