



## **LEGACY SOCIETY MEMBER**

**Pam Lydon**

*by Bonnie Dorrans*

Joining Assistance League of Long Beach as a member of Las Hermanas seemed like a perfect fit for Pam Lydon. She was sponsored by Judie Lecesne who felt that the timing for Pam was right. She had lost her husband Buck to cancer after nearly 51 years of marriage, and the support of a caring group like Las Hermanas and the philanthropic activities in which she could participate would help to fill a void and give her purpose.

Pam had always proven herself in volunteerism. When her two daughters were growing up, she was very active at the Lakewood YMCA and received the Woman of the Year Award in 1978. Three years earlier, she had been honored with the Woman of the Year Award for the Greater Long Beach YMCA. During the early 90's, Pam was an active member of Ebell Juniors, even serving as president for one term.

Born in Inglewood, Pam and her parents moved to Long Beach when she was three. From 2<sup>nd</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Pam was involved in Girl Scouts and appreciated her mother being one of the leaders for part of that time. Her fond remembrances of growing up include her father building a ski boat in the garage and then taking vacations every summer to Bass Lake where they would camp, water ski, and build lasting memories. Her father owned a number of grocery stores in town over the years, but Pam thinks he was best known as the owner of the well-loved Howie's Market in Belmont Shore in the 1960's.

She met her husband to be, "Buck" Lydon, while still in high school and she knew he was "the one." Their long marriage produced two wonderful daughters, three granddaughters, and a grandson. Pam is happy to have her daughter Leslie and her family living nearby. Her other daughter, Susan, and her family reside in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Recently Pam was back in Washington, DC, to watch one of her granddaughters graduate from American University. She was proud to have another granddaughter graduate this year as well from California State University, Long Beach (CSULB).

For 24 years, Pam worked for State Farm Insurance, beginning in claims. Within three years, she was moved to the main office in Costa Mesa as a secretary to the human resources representatives. Less than a year later, she was promoted to data processing and eventually took over the security administration position for the entire Southern California region. Her last position found her in charge of computer inventory. She retired in 2004 when the Costa Mesa office closed. Her retirement was undoubtedly a loss for the company, because her abilities were valued and she could do almost anything that was asked of her.

Pam likes being a member of Assistance League, because it is so well run, it has amazing members, and it gives her a chance to give back to the community. She is currently in her second year as Reservations Chairman, a Las Hermanas governing body position. Among the committees she has served on are Assault Survivors Kits<sup>®</sup>, Boutique, Golf, and this year, Endowment, New Member Tea, and Finance. She also enjoys her time spent working at the Thrift & Vintage Shop, as well as working the reception desk at the Philanthropic Center.

Just how did Pam become an endowment member? Pam learned that, in retirement, it is not advised to leave your 401K with the employer. Her financial advisor showed her how to rollover her 401K and, in consolidating her finances, she chose to donate stock that was in her portfolio to Assistance League of Long Beach. Pam hopes her contribution to the endowment fund, along with those of others, will help insure the continuation of this wonderful organization that provides so many services to those in need in the community. "Assistance League of Long Beach is a comforting organization to belong to," she said, "and we are all of one heart." It's amazing what power there is when all those hearts work together.

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*If you are interested in learning more about Assistance League of Long Beach's Endowment Program or Legacy Society membership, please contact Annette Kashiwabara, Executive Director, at (562) 627-5650.*