



About Sister Jeanne Felion, SSS

Sister Jeanne Felion, SSS, Executive Director of Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center for 43 years, has lived a lifetime of service that has forever changed the community for the better.

Early Life: Sister Jeanne Felion was born in Chico, CA, and grew up in Del Paso Heights. She is a proud graduate of Grant Joint Union High School. Upon her graduation in 1963, she entered the Sisters of Social Service, out of a strong desire to serve her community.

Religious life: The mission and charism of the Sisters of Social Service includes: sharing hospitality, valuing work and prayer, special concern for women and children, and promotion of social justice and peace. During her training, Sister Jeanne's experiences formed her vision of serving others. Her work in settlement houses in Kansas City, MO and San Diego, CA in the late 1960s/early 1970s gave her the opportunity to live out the values of the SSS, and impacted who she is as a leader today.

Return to Sacramento: Upon her return to Sacramento in 1974, Sister Jeanne completed requirements for her degree in Social Work at CSU, Sacramento, including field work as a student intern at Stanford Settlement Neighborhood Center. The Board of Trustees hired her as the Executive Director on July 1, 1976. Her earliest efforts broadened both the funding base and the agency's reputation by securing grants from federal, state, county, and city governments, as well as United Way, corporations, and foundations.

Work:

Not willing to accept the "status quo" when it comes to the dignity and rights of individuals, Sister Jeanne has been expert at working within large systems while still maintaining her integrity and staying true to her agency's mission. She has a gift for seeing the bigger issues that inform her work. She is able to influence both the micro and macro levels of service to better the lives of people in need.

Under Sister Jeanne's leadership, agency programs have expanded based on the changing needs of the community. Along with that, she has seen that agency space expanded as well. She has been responsible for major renovations to the physical property over the years, as well as the construction of a new Senior Center in 1992, and a new Teen Center in 2009.

"I've enjoyed being in a leadership position. I think it's one of the greatest ways to have an impact on life around you. As a leader, you can change things for the better." Typical of her unassuming style, Sister Jeanne gives much credit to others. She says: "It's something we've done together. It's the staff and the community and the board. It's not just me. We've all done this together."