



August 2, 2018

City of Fontana Account Clerk Serving up Stories and Smiles for 33 Years



Fontana, Calif.- You could say a career with the City of Fontana was meant to be for Account Clerk Karen Mattson. The former waitress spent years serving meals to city employees at one of the few sit-down restaurants in Fontana in the 1980s. Her ambitious and charismatic personality led to the then City of Fontana Finance Director encouraging her to apply for a part-time position as an account clerk in the Purchasing Division. She took a leap of faith, applied and as they say, the rest is history.

Over the course of 33 years, she has not only witnessed the physical changes associated with the city, but has been a part of its growth and development into the financially sound city it is today. During her career, Karen Mattson transitioned from part-time employee to a full-time position. She has worked many roles in the Management Services Division such as processing business

licenses, front counter cashier, processing passport applications, accounts payable, processing the mail and paying invoices to name a few.

"I chose to work for the City of Fontana so that my sons and I would have a better life," shares Karen Mattson. "I have enjoyed all my jobs with the city...and the aspect of my job I enjoyed the most would be the people I work with."

Karen is a people-person and enjoys interacting with coworkers and the community. She loves to tell stories and is known for her infectious laugh. Even though her waitress days are behind her, she continues to serve meals to children in her neighborhood that she has mentored over the years. "I am passionate about helping others," states Karen. "I just ask whomever I help continues to pay it forward."

Outside of work, Karen enjoys spending time with her family. "I have two sons, Christopher and Eric, and a daughter-in-law Michelle. I have two grandchildren Christopher Jr. who is five and Charlotte who is two. They bring me so much happiness!," expresses Karen.

Come September, Karen will be retiring. As for plans after retirement, she's looking forward to "taking each day as it comes." However, Karen knows that whatever she may do, it will be focused on her family, her friends and herself.

She's spent a lifetime serving others in different capacities and plans to continue to serve in the next chapter of her life. Karen is passionate about serving the community and hopes to make a difference as a volunteer. "I like to help people in need, because I have been there myself," she reveals.

Karen was selected as August's Employee spotlight based on nominations from her coworkers. According to one coworker, the "first impression of Karen was that of a kind, welcoming person and this impression has rung true repeatedly. She will go out of her way to help others."

The City of Fontana wishes Karen a happy retirement and is thankful for 33 years of her dedicated service to the city.