

## **In Memory of Ann King**

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of former Tri-Valley Haven Executive Director, Ann King, who passed away peacefully at her home in Manteca, California, on May 12, 2026, after a courageous battle with ovarian cancer. She was 68 years old.

For twenty-five years, Ann led Tri-Valley Haven with extraordinary compassion, courage, and vision. Her professional life was devoted to supporting survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, addressing homelessness and poverty, and building safer, healthier communities for all. The impact of her leadership will continue to shape Tri-Valley Haven for generations to come.

Born Ann Elizabeth Ryan on October 17, 1957, in Davenport, Iowa, Ann was the beloved daughter of Robert and Alice Ann Ryan and grew up as the only girl among five brothers. She graduated from Assumption High School in 1976, earned her degree from Wayne State College in 1980, and later received her Master of Social Work in Administration from San Diego State University in 1985. Before joining Tri-Valley Haven in 1997, Ann directed both a domestic violence services program and a drop-in center for unhoused individuals in San Diego.

Ann's leadership at Tri-Valley Haven was transformative. She guided the organization through decades of growth, challenges, and innovation while remaining deeply grounded in the agency's mission of creating safe homes and ending violence, abuse, and poverty. She was never afraid to pursue bold ideas when she believed they would better serve the community.

In 2001, when Tri-Valley Haven was approached about providing homeless services, many questioned whether the organization should expand beyond domestic violence and sexual assault programs. Ann believed firmly that shelter, food security, and safety were inseparable. Despite skepticism and criticism, she led the organization forward with conviction and compassion. Today, Tri-Valley Haven's homeless services, emergency shelter, and food pantry have supported thousands of individuals and families in need. Her vision made that possible.

The same determination guided the creation of Tri-Valley Haven's Thrift Store. Long before it became a reality, Ann recognized the opportunity to create both a sustainable source of funding and a dignified resource for shelter residents rebuilding their lives. She researched successful models, listened carefully, and trusted her instincts. Today, the thrift store remains an important part of Tri-Valley Haven's ability to serve the community.

Ann also led the organization through some of its most difficult moments. During the Great Recession, as nonprofits across the country faced devastating layoffs and funding losses,

Ann worked collaboratively with staff to preserve every position at Tri-Valley Haven. Through temporary hour reductions and shared sacrifice, no employees lost their jobs. When funding stabilized, hours were restored. Her leadership protected not only services, but also the people who provided them.

She was a courageous advocate who stood firmly for what was right, particularly when protecting the confidentiality and dignity of survivors. She championed inclusion within the organization and founded Tri-Valley Haven's Partner in Equity (PIE) Committee, a staff-led initiative that continues to thrive.

While Ann's professional accomplishments were remarkable, those who knew her best will remember her warmth, kindness, humor, and deep love for others. She cherished her family, treasured holidays and decorations, loved her backyard flowers and cats, and stayed closely connected to the people she cared about.

Ann is survived by her loving husband and best friend, Bill King; her brothers and extended family; and countless friends, colleagues, survivors, advocates, and community members whose lives were touched by her generosity and leadership.

Ann King's vision and influence live on throughout Tri-Valley Haven. We remain deeply grateful for her decades of service, mentorship, and unwavering belief in the dignity and potential of every person.

Together, we will continue the work she dedicated her life to: building a community free from violence, abuse, homelessness, and poverty.

In lieu of flowers, Ann's family has requested that memorial donations be made to [Tri-Valley Haven](#).

Details regarding *A Celebration of Ann's Life* will be announced in the coming weeks.