

PRECIOUS CARGO

16 August 2017
by Carol Bower Foote

“You enter life a ship laden with meaning, purpose, and gifts sent to be delivered to a hungry world. And as much as the world needs your cargo, you need to give it away. The world may not know it is starving, but the hungry know, and they will find you once you discover your cargo and start to give it away.” (from CARGO by contemporary poet, Greg Kimura) What cargo are you carrying? How and where are you delivering it?

We talk a lot about volunteers - most local non-profit organizations, including ours, are led by volunteers. You have heard us reach out to people willing to donate time, talent, effort, and skills to create and execute project plans and events, and to sustain our programs. Here is one RioVision volunteer's story.

When you enjoy the ambiance of Main Street with its greenery, flowers, sculptures, and trees in planters framed by commemorative bricks, nod a quiet “thank you” to RioVision volunteer, Jamie Victor, and her “Trim and Tidy” team. Jamie joined the RioVision planter project as a volunteer in June 2015 when the Bank of Stockton and RioVista Hotel planters were being refurbished. Every morning, she and her husband Rich removed old plants, dug trenches, and shoveled sand...tough work especially in summer heat. Jamie was a regular as the project team moved to planters down the block and into spring the following year, sometimes in sweats, hat, and gloves in the cold of late winter. She learned to skillfully set pavers with polymer sand. As the number of planter team volunteers grew through Jamie's network of friends and RioVision recruitment, Jamie offered training.

When the project was drawing to a close, Jamie took on management of the follow up “Trim and Tidy” program established to maintain the planters. This spring and summer of 2017, Jamie organized and coordinated a crew of volunteers to regularly clip and pull weeds (sometimes with very loooooong roots), trim plants, and remove debris, organic and otherwise, to maintain the “curb appeal” of our downtown artery. Jamie appears to have brought the same passionate energy to keeping Rio Vista beautiful as she has for the artful knitting for which she is known (knitterbugdesigns.com)...and made good friends, while expanding her skills, in the process!



To quote RioVision president MaryEllen Lamothe, “Jamie is one of those ‘super volunteers’ who has stayed with it for the long haul, setting an example for volunteerism that is hard to beat.” Working with Jamie on the “Trim and Tidy” team are volunteers Karin Rucker, Sue Williams, Cindy Knieble, Harriett Stone, Amy Schmidt, and MaryEllen Lamothe. On behalf of all of us who live here, and those who visit, thanks to each one of you for delivering some of your cargo for the benefit of our town. (If you, the reader, would like to volunteer for this program, contact us at info@riovistavision.com)

(Jamie, left, is pictured here with project volunteer Dennis Elliott in the early days of the planter refurbishment)

You will see other dedicated volunteers and “ships delivering cargo” at work in our community at the new calendar events in BOLD on our What's Happening calendar and at the HOG AUGUST BITES Street Fair this Saturday, August 19th (Separate article).

“You have gifts. The world needs your gifts. You must deliver them.” (Kimura)