

# BakersfieldLife™

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[www.bakersfieldlife.com](http://www.bakersfieldlife.com)

A photograph of a woman with reddish-brown hair, wearing blue scrubs and a stethoscope, smiling warmly while holding a baby. The baby is wearing a blue and yellow striped onesie. The background shows a hospital room with a computer monitor and a desk.

## SALUTE TO NURSES

We recognize some of our best local providers

### NIGHTLIFE

Special section on where to go, what to do

### LOCAL HEROES

Everyday people honored for heroic acts

### BIKE TO WORK

Greener commute good for you, environment

### PERSONALITY

Sandra Serrano built career on service to Kern students



**RaeAnn Schmunk**

ful experiences and opportunities to meet many people. I have always had a passion for helping patients and their families. I have been working at Good Samaritan Hospital for the past two and a half years.

**What are the attributes of a great nurse?**

The person must be compassionate and willing to look for opportunities to serve those in need. Be able to leave at the end of your shift knowing that you have provided the best personalized care possible. Nursing is much more than passing pills and doing treatments. It is being able to take care of the patient and those who must care for them when they are discharged. Be able to provide the spiritual needs of those who come into your life.

**What do you love about serving this community?**

The people who I am privileged to serve in this community are a blessing to me. I am given an opportunity to give and support them. Many of the patients who come to Good Samaritan Hospital cross my path outside of the hospital. Once a month, my spouse and I do a lunch feeding for 100 people who are homeless. We go into the campsites and serve them a sack lunch. I am also very active in my church, where I am a deacon.

## **RaeAnn Schmunk**

### **Nurse at Mercy Southwest**

**Did you always want to be a nurse?**

My mother told me at a young age that I should become a nurse. My grandmother was a nurse and so was my aunt. I wasn't com-

pletely sure it was the right choice for me until I was accepted into the RN program at Bakersfield College. Everything just seemed to fall into place, and all of a sudden, school wasn't "school" anymore. It was fun, new, and exciting. It was absolutely my calling.

### **How long have you been in the field? How long with Mercy Southwest?**

I have just completed my 10th year as a registered nurse in labor and delivery. The last six years I have been lucky enough to call the Family Birth Center my home.

### **What are the attributes of a great nurse?**

A *great* nurse is the nurse who puts their whole heart into what they do. They are caring, compassionate, nonjudgmental, and they work with integrity and honesty. Great nurses know they are part of a team working for the greater good of the patient.

### **What do you love about serving this community?**

I have practiced nursing outside of Bakersfield. I came back because I love that the people of Bakersfield have such good hearts. This is a very caring and giving community that welcomes diversity in background and culture. I have had the chance to work with well-respected physicians, care for immigrant fieldworkers, educate schoolteachers, and bathe babies. I was raised here. My children are being raised here. Helping new mothers is a chance to improve lives.

I believe that there is no greater gift than to offer a healing touch, a calming word, or some peace of mind. If you have ever been a patient of mine, please know that it truly was my honor to take care of you. Thank you so much for letting me be a part of your special moment.



Mary Jane Macusi

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## Mary Jane Macusi

### Medical surgical unit, Mercy Hospital

#### **Did you always want to be a nurse?**

At first I wanted to be in psychology. My mom's ambition was to be a nurse. She wasn't able to take nursing after all, so she encouraged me to go into nursing school. That's where I met a lot of my best friends, many whom I stay in touch with today.

#### **How long have you been in the field? How long with Mercy Hospital?**

I've been in the nursing field since I graduated in 1990 from a school in the Philippines. I worked at the Children's Hospital in the Philippines. I went to Saudi Arabia for another five years and then I came here. I started at St. Joseph's in Chicago. I arrived at Mercy Hospital on April 23, 2007.

#### **What are the attributes of a great nurse?**

It's the value of caring and the learning of caring. It's being able to help people on such a personal level in an important time in their lives — when they are really sick. Your mission is to ensure the same value of care to any patient regardless of their economic status.

#### **What do you love about serving this community?**

I love being to help patients and take care of them. There's been a lot of special patients who have impacted me. Chemo patients are very special to me. It's a rewarding feeling to see them get their life back. They'll even come back and see us in the hospital.