

CLASS OF



1962

BARBARA GIBBONS EVANSON

“May we begin and end with the children? It’s all about them.”

Barb is a 1962 graduate of Bismarck High School, a 1964 graduate of Bismarck Junior College and a 1966 graduate of the University of North Dakota. Following her marriage to her high school sweetheart, Bruce Evanson, the two began their life-long careers in education in Grand Forks. They then moved to Bismarck to teach and to raise their three children, Tracey, John, and Kelly.

Believing the strength of the community lies with its families, Barb, during her ten years as a stay-at-home mom, was the driving force in implementing the community/school partnership program called Neighbors Network whose purpose was to help families in crises. In its second year, the Neighbors Network Program was one of twenty-five grassroots efforts receiving national recognition from the US Department of Health and Human Services for exemplary service in meeting the needs of families. A profound concern for all children led Barb to envision and create “The Big People” with nine other like-minded adults whose musical message of love and

freedom was heard throughout the state. “The Big People”

received the Governor’s Award for Excellence. Barb also served as a State Senator and was a strong advocate

for children and families. Her belief in the Middle School Concept was apparent in the passage of the middle level funding legislation she co-sponsored.

Barb also assumed a role as one of North Dakota’s LEAD Teachers for which she received high acclaim from the Carnegie Bridges Middle School Project.

She was the recipient of BSC’s Outstanding Alumna Award in 1991. Barb represented North Dakota teachers on The Teachers Fund for Retirement Board, on the State Investment Board, and on the Internal Audit Committee. Barb also served as a North Dakota

Teacher of the Year and as a Milken National Educator of the Year during her twenty-nine years as a classroom teacher.



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