

Kathleen Moxon

*Chief Administrative Officer
Director, Institute of the North Coast
Humboldt Area Foundation*

She takes heart in the words of the pioneering child psychologist, Jean Piaget,

“As you know, Bergson pointed out that there is not such thing as disorder but rather two sorts of order, geometric and living. Mine is clearly living. The folders I need are within reach, in the order of the frequency with which I use them. True, it gets tricky to locate a folder in the lower levels. But if you have to find it, you look for it. That takes less time than putting them away everyday.”

Kathy Moxon is the director, secretary, receptionist, and file clerk of the Institute of the North Coast, a program of the Humboldt Area Foundation. The Institute was created in 1996 as a vehicle for the Foundation’s work to address economic development on the far north coast of California. (Contrary to popular belief there are 325 miles of coastline north of San Francisco, most very rural and rugged.) Her initial job description was:

“Improve the community’s ability to work collectively in identifying and dealing with issues of overall community concern, particularly those which are related to the North Coast’s economic and community development. Create the context for citizen leaders to emerge and to work, learn, solve problems and initiate action jointly.”

Needless to say, the job has been challenging, frustrating, and HUGE! It has also been exciting, creative and satisfying. Under the guise of the Institute, Kathy has been involved in the development of a regional economic development strategy entitled Prosperity! The North Coast Strategy, the creation of the Prosperity Network a collaborative group of service providers focused on nurturing local business growth and development, the design, direction and policy setting for the new Workforce Investment Board, leadership of Humboldt County Economic Development Forum, a group of organizations who have various roles in regional economic development, and creation of the YouthNet, a collaboration of service providers working to create a unified agenda and action plan for youth development.

Kathy recently took on the title of Chief Administrative Officer for Humboldt Area Foundation, the job description for which is currently under construction.

Kathy graduated with a B.S. in Agricultural Management and Economics (1978) from the University of California at Davis at began her work life as a credit analyst with the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Sacramento (part of the Federal Farm Credit System.) On her honeymoon she and her husband purchased a house in Humboldt County and currently lives there with their four children, two dogs, three horses, three cats and seven hairless, yes-hairless rats. In her spare time she coaches and plays roller hockey, works in the garden and makes miniature quilts.