



## HONORED BY SURPRISE

**Regina Weatherspoon-Bell top vote getter**

**BY HOLLY LA PAT  
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY PRESS**

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Today we conclude our series profiling some of the High Desert's Most Inspiring Women. Those profiled were nominated and selected by Daily Press readers. To view more profiles and videos in the series, go to [www.VVDailyPress.com](http://www.VVDailyPress.com).

### APPLE VALLEY

- For the past four years, Regina Weatherspoon-Bell has been honoring the nominees for the High Desert's Most Inspiring Women. She just didn't expect to see her name on the list. "I have mixed emotions," she said. As a volunteer for the Today's Woman Foundation, Weatherspoon-Bell takes part every year in the March reception co-hosted by the Daily Press to congratulate the nominees.

"They're not doing it to self-promote," Weatherspoon-Bell said of the other women selected. "They're just being who they are."

This year, she took her place among them.

Weatherspoon-Bell was, in fact, the top vote-getter among the 2010 Daily Press Most Inspiring Women. It's not hard to see why.

In addition to the Today's Woman Foundation, Weatherspoon-Bell volunteers with A Better Way Domestic Violence Shelter, the Lewis Center Foundation Board, the Salvation Army, the Victor Valley Museum and Art Gallery, The Bridge It Together Coalition and the San Bernardino County Commission on the Status of Women.

It all began when her son, Grayson, went to Desert Knolls Elementary in Apple Valley. Weatherspoon-Bell volunteered there — then kept helping out for about a year after her son graduated the elementary. After that, she looked for other places to volunteer, drawn to helping women and children.

"I started kind of getting involved," she said. "You know how that goes — one thing leads to another."

Last year, Weatherspoon-Bell helped A Better Way Domestic Violence Shelter start up a 17-week course in job preparedness for women coming out of abusive situations.

“It was really humbling to see people who were in situations hard enough to imagine you could survive, let alone be healthy,” Weatherspoon-Bell said.

“She’s all about empowerment of women,” said Anita Gomez, case manager at A Better Way, “and seeing every woman put her best foot forward.”

“I truly see women being so challenged,” Weatherspoon-Bell said. “As much as we’ve come into our own, we still struggle. Women are now heads of family. That percentage is through the roof.”

She’s grateful for her husband, Wilton, and his active role as a father to their son. She knows many families aren’t so fortunate.

Concerned about the number of young men growing up without a good father figure, she partnered with Marcelino “Chico” Garza of the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools’ Alliance for Education to form the “Save Our Sons” program, helping teen boys find positive role models and mentors.

“She has the empathy of putting herself in the shoes of so many other mothers,” Garza said. “So many mothers out there are scared to death they’re losing their kids. She can’t just sit there.”

In the midst of all her volunteering, Weatherspoon-Bell still finds time to run her own company from home, offering marketing and special events promotions. How does she do it?

“I’m focused enough that I can multitask,” she said. “What I do, I do because I feel led to do it. I believe if God leads you there, He’s giving you everything you need to get the job done.”

Aside from the grace of God, Weatherspoon-Bell said, “There’s really no magic.” But a grin sneaked across her face as she admitted, “I don’t sleep a lot.”

She does find time for her family — vacations, concerts or just watching movies at home. And she loves their “Soul Food Sunday” dinners cooked by her father, who raised his daughter on his own after her mother passed away when Regina was just 11.

“She’s got a wonderful husband, a wonderful son, a wonderful father,” Garza said. “For somebody to be that busy, you can’t do it alone. You’ve got to do it with the blessings of many people, the blessings of our kids.”

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JAMES QUIGG, DAILY PRESS

**ACTIVE LEADER:** Regina Weatherspoon-Bell has been an active leader in the community for years. She is most recognized for her work with the Today's Woman Expo, but also recently played a key role in creating the Save Our Sons Summit.