



six years from 1986 to 1991 where she helped nearly 7,000 individuals in California obtain legal citizenship. She continued working full time as a legal translator until 2012.

Still set on helping others, Patricia volunteered for a program called METS, a non-profit medical transport program for Tehama County residents who didn't have the ability to drive themselves to medical appointments. When she turned 70 in 2017, she realized she hadn't visited an eye doctor in 8 years herself. Having driven countless individuals to and from doctor appointments over her five years with the METS program, she had found that the doctors at North Valley Eye Care had the best reputation around, so she scheduled an appointment.

Patricia visited North Valley Eye Care this past August and was immediately impressed with how friendly everyone was. "They were absolutely wonderful. It was like walking into a room with a bunch of friends; there wasn't a single grumpy person in there," she said. During the visit, her doctor found that she had cataracts and would need surgery. He walked her through the process and assured her that there was nothing to be worried about. As a diabetic, sticking to her morning routine was of utmost importance to her health, so the surgery coordinator made sure to schedule her surgery first thing in the morning, so she could continue with her daily routine unchanged.

Patricia arrived for her first surgery with Dr. Barthelow on October 24th at 6:00 a.m. and was out by 7:15 a.m., just in time for breakfast with her daughter-in-law. "There was nothing to it," Patricia said, "I was calm and relaxed with no fears or concerns; I just went in and had my surgery." She had her second surgery on November 6th and found it to be just as easy.

When asked about her overall experience with North Valley Eye Care, Patricia responded, "While being extremely professional, Dr. Barthelow makes you feel relaxed and like your health truly matters to him. What I sense from people is extremely important. You absolutely feel that they care. He is just beyond any other doctor I've met. I've always been scared of losing my vision. I'm a knitter, crocheter, and translator. Your vision is incredibly important in all three, and he made sure I kept mine. In fact, it's better than it ever was before! When I walked in, these were the most professional, friendliest, and competent doctors and staff I've seen, so I knew I was in the right place. Everyone knows your name and treats you like they've known you forever. I would never go anywhere else; they're the absolute best!"

Cataract-free, Patricia can't help but rave about her new hi-definition vision and the experience her friends have had since. "**My vision is perfect; I've taken so many people over there since my surgery," she said, "and it's the only place I would recommend.** I recently took a client of mine there who hadn't been to an eye doctor in 30 years, and they found that she had both glaucoma and cataracts. She didn't even realize she was losing her vision as the change was so gradual. They're doing surgery for her next week and we're both excited for the results. They treat everyone the same; she even mentions how she feels like family."

IF YOU'RE LIKE PATRICIA, AND THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME TO ASSESS YOUR VISION, CALL NORTH VALLEY EYE CARE TODAY AT 530.891.1900. AS SHE'LL BE THE FIRST TO TELL YOU, IT'LL BE THE BEST DECISION YOU'LL EVER MAKE.

OF NORTH VALLEY EYE CARE

## Patricia Vazquez

Born in Berkeley, California, Patricia Vazquez grew up with a natural proclivity for language. Raised by her grandmother to believe that each person's purpose on Earth was to help others, she used her talent from an early age to help break down barriers in communication for those around her. By the time she graduated high school at 16, she was already fluent in a number of Latino-based languages; as she puts it, "I just listened and happened to pick them up." She decided to enter the beauty industry at the age of 18, where she knew she could openly converse with clients while helping them fall in love with themselves all over again.

Patricia moved to Red Bluff with her husband and in-laws in 1971. Sticking to her cosmetology background, she ran a beauty shop in town, offering hair-color, styling, and makeup to clients. She met countless individuals through the business and as each one learned her story, word that she was fluent in many languages spread. She was soon approached to help translate for a number of difficult court cases in Tehama County and, due to her success with these cases, eventually began translating for courts in Butte, Tehama, and Shasta counties.

She left her job in cosmetology and focused on her translating services, taking on a full time position as a medical and legal translator. Her work as a translator eventually led her to become one of only five individuals picked throughout the United States to translate for the amnesty and legalization program. Her work with the program spanned