

Barbara Markowski

Class of 1970

- Graduate of Parkside High School (1968), Jackson Community College (1970), and earned her Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education from Western Michigan University in 1972.
- Worked as a home economics teacher at Vandercook Lake Schools and later owned and operated the Hearts All Around Quilt Shop of Jackson.
- Has volunteered with the Jackson College Heritage Center for over eight years, bringing her expertise to various projects including quilt-making, puzzles, scrapbooks, and veterans' Christmas tree initiatives.
- Served on numerous committees at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, was Senior Warden of the Church Vestry and chaired a \$2 million building project to replace the deteriorated Parish Hall.
- Committed to assisting at-risk youth, she created a program providing more than 150 inner-city children with trips to Lake Michigan, an initiative that continues today.
- Her dedication to rehabilitation is evident in her extensive volunteer work with SOAR Café and Farms, where she mentored women from the Jackson County Jail, served as an administrative assistant, sat on the Board of Trustees, chaired fundraising events, and managed the restoration of the SOAR House.
- Following literacy training through the Community Action Agency, she taught a 72-year-old woman to read.
- Jackson College presented her with the 2025 Dr. Ethelene Jones Crockett Distinguished Alumni Award.
- She and her husband Ron, a CPA and fellow JC graduate, have a blended family of five daughters and 14 grandchildren.