

Leadership in Action

FPA members inspire others in many ways, helping lead in their practice, local Chapter, community, family, and especially with their clients. FPA Leadership in Action helps highlight these “everyday” qualities of our members and remind us that we all have opportunities to lead.



NAME: Jim Johnson, member since 1982

COMPANY: Lighthouse Financial Planning, LLC, Folsom, Calif.

Don't Be Shy – Jump In

A Leader in the Profession

Jim Johnson has been a financial planner for more than 30 years, and is described by clients as caring, open and straightforward. He has served in many leadership capacities, each one preparing him for another challenge. Jim has chaired FPA's Bridge the Gap program, designed for planners with less than two years of experience; has mentored countless young planners in the FPA Residency program; and has helped with social committee activities for FPA Retreat. Jim has also served as a local club president and a division Lt. Governor for Kiwanis International, a global volunteer organization dedicated to changing the world, one child and one community at a time. Apart from his professional leadership success, Jim holds a fourth-degree black belt in martial arts. His goal is to reach fifth-degree level, becoming a master black belt. He has mentored many kids who are learning martial arts and finds great satisfaction in helping them become leaders of it for future generations. Jim says, “If you mentor one child, hopefully you change one life for the better. If you can motivate one child to become a mentor for others, then maybe you change dozens, or even hundreds, of lives. That's the most special feeling of all.”

Lessons Learned

- Prepare yourself for future leadership opportunities by volunteering early in life
- Look for ways to make a difference in someone's life every day
- Our peers in the planning industry have a wealth of knowledge and leadership experiences. Find every opportunity you can to talk to them

Jim's Leadership Portfolio

Jim is FPA of Northern California's Government Relations Director and is also part of the national Government Relations Committee. Jim is a mentor for FPA's Residency program and served for many years on the Career Development Committee. He is a past winner of his chapter's “Outstanding Service Award for Advancing the Vision of the FPA” and achieved recognition as CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER of the year in 1997 by the Sacramento Society of the Institute of Certified Financial Planners. He also served in many chapter leadership positions with FPA's predecessor organizations.



“I believe there are two key components to leadership. One lives in the realm of energy, spirit and inspiration. The second lives in doingness; seeing that things actually get done; that commitments are kept.”