

Translation from Bulgarian language

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## **Yvette Barry: the Woman behind the Man Philanthropist Known all over the World**

*The Wife of the Canadian Billionaire Yank Barry is a Key Figure in  
the Family's Charity Activity*



They say behind every successful man there is a strong, confident and clever woman. Today we will introduce to you a couple in which the wife does not stay in the background, on the contrary, she is always side by side with her husband, and is his worthy partner both in life and in his charity work around the world.

Here is the story of Yank Barry, the billionaire philanthropist we have already told you about, and his wife Yvette.

**Mr. Barry, you and your wife have recently received an award for saving children's lives around the world (Childhelp International Achievement**

**Award). Apart from this award, you have also received a number of others. What is the contribution of your wife to the other distinctions and awards?**

My wife is a wonderful person with a great heart. She is a cofounder of the Global Village Foundation, along with me and Muhammad Ali. The ChildHelp award is the first time Yvette has received recognition for her 20 years' hard work in aid of others.

Yvette has cooked for and helped the refugees in the jungles of Africa, the tsunami victims in Indonesia, the dumpsite children in Mexico, the snowstorm victims in Montreal, the needy in Jamaica and, most recently, the Syrian refugees, who are victims of the war in Syria.

She has done all that with no fanfare or personal gain. It was great receiving this award together because she really deserves it. She is currently a volunteer with Guardian ad Litem and helps mistreated children.



Yvette, Muhammad Ali and Yank Barry

**People all over the world know you are a businessman, a philanthropist and a musician. What does Yank Barry regret?**

My daughter Lanie died 10 years ago. My wife Yvette spent more time with her than I did. I wish I could turn back time and change this. To be with them and to have many happy moments together. Life is not just about work and I am sorry that there is nothing I can do to put the clock back.

**How did you meet your wife? Was it love at first sight?**

We met in Sarasota. I was there for a charity concert of *For the Love of Rock and Roll* Foundation, which supports rock musicians who have gotten into

difficulties. On the stage we were together with Gary Bonds and Brian Johnson. I performed my famous hit “Louie Louie”.

After the concert Brian, Gary and I went out for dinner and we did some shopping. Yvette worked as a consultant in a gallery we visited. When I entered I saw her. For me she was the most beautiful thing in the gallery. I do not believe in fortuity. We two are very much alike and have a similar destiny – my father and her father died of the same disease – aneurysm. My father died in 1963 at the age of 36, and her father died in 1973 at the same age.

Yvette is not only the love of my life, she is also my best friend. I have never had a person closer than her. I think she is my foreordained half.

### **Who stood by you in good and bad times?**

For the last 25 years that was my wife Yvette. When I fought court battles in Texas, when I was lonely and sad, she was always by my side, supporting me. When one is rich and successful, everybody is a friend, but when he has problems, there is nobody around. The only person staying with you is the one who is the most important in your life.

### **Do you have a dream trip?**

Yvette and I have traveled the world three times, but these were business trips and we did not see much. I would like to take her on a safari in Africa. She loves nature and animals very much, and animals adore her.

### **What is the recipe for a successful marriage? In Bulgaria a lot of couples encounter difficulties. What would you advise them?**

Love is an intricate thing. You should not take anything for granted and should appreciate the person beside you. My wife Yvette has always given me a lot of love and patience, and today I can say I’m the luckiest man in the world. We have been together for 25 years and each day I love her more than the day before because she has not even a grain of selfishness.

She has made an enormous contribution to our charity work. Even if she only has BGN 5, she will give it all to people in misfortune. She is not one of those women who would spend this money on clothes or buy something unnecessary. She realizes that life is short and knows that trifles are of no importance.



**You are known as the Jewish Schindler and you are often blamed for not helping Bulgarians, though you are in Bulgaria. What would you say to those people who write ugly things about you?**

Yvette and I have helped Bulgarians and we are helping them, but that is not so widely known as the support we give to the refugees. I have never divided people by sex, religion or race. For me there are only people in need and people who cope on their own.

I am a Jew and, due to that, I do not take the liberty of dividing people. In my opinion, that is wrong. You know what the Jews had to go through in the past. We are all brothers and sisters and we all have moments in our lives when we need someone to help us. I would like to advise the Bulgarians – no matter how difficult their life is – to smile more and to help each other. Only then will Bulgaria get out of the crisis – when people are united.

**Yvette, why do you help the needy? You and your husband are currently helping the Syrian refugees in Bulgaria, what is the reason?**

I feel that when you are blessed, it is your duty to help the less fortunate, as fellow human beings. We are in this world together.

**Can you tell me something more about yourself and your husband Yank?**

Over the last 25 years Yank and I have worked as a team to build businesses, charity work and our life. We have lived and traveled the world to help better

people's lives while enriching our own. Yank places ideas into the universe and, to my amazement, through hard work his dreams come to fruition. It has been a journey ...

**And yet, say something more about yourself, Yvette.**

I am flattered that you would like to know more about me, but the article should really be about Yank. I have always been in the background, he is the one in the front putting his heart, soul and money in everything he does. I truly have stayed in the background because he is the man in the hot air balloon and I am merely part of the ground crew that makes sure he doesn't float into space.

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*I, the undersigned Merdjanova certify the fidelity of the translation I have made from Bulgarian into English of the article attached hereto – Yvette Barry: the Woman behind the Man Philanthropist Known all over the World, dated April 20, 2015, Author: Gergana Miteva, Jenite.bg Internet site. The translation consists of 5 pages.*

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