

Serving Camden hospitals since 1912

Hospital Auxiliary of Kershaw County

2011 Annual Report to Members



Elizabeth A. Lisa Holland, Ph.D., LMFT



A note from the Hospital Auxiliary:

In anticipation of a turn-of-the-century millennium celebration in 2000, the Hospital Auxiliary's Mary Sargeant began an exhaustive search of the history of the Auxiliary's contributions to healthcare in the Kershaw County area. That search uncovered documented evidence that the Auxiliary was instrumental in the founding of the first Camden hospital circa 1912. "Serving Camden hospitals since 1912" has been included in our publications since that discovery. This century-old legacy of community service is a source of immense pride to our members.

We often hear testimonials from the community of how the Hospital Auxiliary has improved the quality of life of a loved one in the past — often, the very distant past. The story we received most recently came from close within our own ranks. It was an emotionally-charged recounting of a decades-old harrowing event that touched numerous lives in the community in a profound way. Until now, details of that event have been sketchy, even to those who knew and loved the victim and her family.

At a recent Hospital Auxiliary Board meeting, Auxiliary correspondence secretary, Betty Holland, recalled an occurrence in 1967 in which a contribution of equipment by the Auxiliary to then Kershaw County Memorial Hospital helped save the life of her daughter, Lisa.

Lisa, now Dr. Lisa Holland, generously offered to share her story with the community for the first time. You will find her beautiful recounting of that ordeal and her subsequent triumph over it included in this mailing.

We thank Lisa and Betty for this wonderful gift and we hope it will be as uplifting to you as it has been to us.

The Hospital Auxiliary of Kershaw County fulfilled its goals in 2010. Proceeds from fund-raising projects such as the annual golf tournament, one-day sales and Gift Express, the Hospital Auxiliary gift shop at KershawHealth, helped provide scholarships to more than twenty area students who are pursuing studies in healthcare-related fields. Additionally, the Auxiliary assisted the various KershawHealth departments in obtaining vital equipment not covered in the annual budget.

Proceeds from the successful annual Lights of Love program supported the many ongoing Auxiliary projects.

The Auxiliary hosted a Christmas party at the Robert Mills Courthouse in honor of KershawHealth Oncology patients.

Fundraising efforts are underway to assist with improvements to the Oncology Department. The objective is to renovate the treatment and waiting areas to add to the privacy and comfort of cancer patients.

The Hospital Auxiliary is grateful to the 2010 members who contributed to the success of the past year. We hope you will join us in our efforts to advance quality health care for the community by becoming a member of the 2011 Hospital Auxiliary of Kershaw County.

Lisa's Story: Page One

In early 1967 the Kershaw County Memorial Hospital Auxiliary purchased a heart monitor/defibrillator and donated it to the hospital. On June 23, 1967, it was used for the first time to save the life of an eight-year old Camden girl who had accidentally received a lethal electric shock about 2:15 that afternoon.

The intake chart notes were bleak: "Patient was lying perfectly listless on the examining room table, no blood pressure or pulse was obtainable, the skin was very pale and cool. No evidence of burn at any point, her pupils were slightly dilated, there was no response to light and no cardiac sounds were heard. From all outward appearances this child was dead."

By 2:30 p.m., Dr. George West, Dr. Jack Fakoury, Dr. Paul Wood, Dr. Francis McCorkle, and Dr. Sandra Catoe were working feverishly to revive the child. With nurses Partin, Branham, Workman and Walden assisting, they began external cardiac massage, but no definite improvements were seen. As the team continued external massage, they connected the child to the cardiac monitor/defibrillator and added adrenaline. Still no response. Then they opened her chest and discovered that her heart was in ventricular fibrillation, a medical emergency where the heart flutters randomly instead of contracting in a coordinated fashion as it normally does. At this point, Dr. McCorkle provided an electrical shock directly to her heart using the defibrillator as Dr West began to massage her heart with his hands. The team refused to give up, and after fifteen minutes of intense effort her heart finally began beating on its own.

There was a series of fortunate events that fell into place that day. The girl was brought in during a shift change so there were additional people at the hospital to help. The Camden community is small; some of the doctors were off-duty, but they lived close by and were able to arrive within minutes. But most of all, the doctors, nurses, and staff were highly trained, committed to healing and they had the necessary tools to do their jobs. All the events that came together that day made the difference between life and an early death...for me.

I'm Lisa Holland, the girl whose anguished father carried her in his arms into the emergency room that sunny afternoon. I can only imagine the horror and disbelief my mother must have experienced when she arrived at the hospital and heard the news. No one knew what the future would hold, but on that day...the only goal was life.

Two weeks later I left the hospital and went back to my family and to my life. Although I have researched this event and tried to understand its consequences for myself, I have never publicly written about my experience until now, and in fact, I rarely even talked about it. Last month an opportunity to use this story for good presented itself, as daddy had predicted it might, when Connie Haynes called and asked if I would use it to help promote the good efforts of Kershaw Health's Hospital Auxiliary. I accepted without hesitation.

My accident happened at home. I had been outside playing and had gone in to clean up. I ran through the kitchen and into the utility room. I jumped up onto the washing machine just as I'd done hundreds of times before so that I could rinse my feet in the nearby sink. This time an electrical short caused something to go terribly wrong as I reached to turn on the water. Electric current shot into the water and entered my body through my feet, traveling through me and stopping my heart along the way. Mom was out running errands, but daddy was at home so he heard my screams.

Lisa's Story: Page Two

Daddy, our housekeeper Lucille, and my friend Becky pulled me away from the current. They rushed me to Kershaw County Memorial Hospital.

I spent several weeks in the hospital where I made it through another cardiac arrest, several seizures and hallucinations. Dr. Curtis Watkins was my pediatrician. He monitored my progress daily and watched over me as though I were his own. Cards and notes of encouragement flowed in from people who were praying for my family and me.

That fall, I returned to Camden Elementary. It was becoming apparent to me that I couldn't remember my past or even the person I'd been. I couldn't remember my friends' names, my last birthday party or how to tie my shoes. I couldn't remember what I liked or didn't like. I just knew that I didn't know what I was supposed to know. I couldn't express this any other way than by saying...I don't know.

I had a teacher who asked me to go to the board so that she could give me a fraction to work. I sat frozen in my desk as I looked around the room for something that might help me know what a "fraction" was. Or what a "board" was. Several classmates were whispering "go to the board, go to the board." It was then when I knew that my challenge wasn't just memory loss, it was something much more.

Over the years in school, I had to find new ways to compensate for the large portions of my memory that had been erased. I watched facial expressions and emotions in order to relearn how to respond in everyday situations. I also relied on my cousin Rengy who helped me to remember things I couldn't on my own. In a strange twist, my struggles to learn and eventually create a career for myself were actually the best possible preparation for my work as a psychotherapist helping people who are trying to rebuild their lives in various ways.

When I think that my life could have ended on June 23, 1967, I'm reminded to prioritize what's really important to worry about. I am forever grateful that the doctors and staff who came to my aid that day were so skilled, resourceful and determined. I'm sure they wondered, as my parents did, what the long term outcome would be.

I keep the cards and notes from my accident in a pink box; I think of it as a box of love in its purest form. I also treasure a tiny note pad where mom wrote down some of my first words after surgery. On one particular sheet she wrote: "Today Dr. West visited with Lisa and she asked him what he had on his head. He replied, 'What does it look like?' She said, 'a halo'."

My family and I were fortunate that Camden had, and still has, such quality and caring medical talent. The people who saved my life are our neighbors, friends and trusted professionals...the best combination, especially when it comes to life and death. Please help Kershaw Health's Hospital Auxiliary continue to provide their staff with the tools they need to help save other lives in Kershaw County.

Lisa Holland is the daughter of Betty B. Holland and the late Senator Donald H. Holland of Camden. She is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in private practice in Columbia.



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Thank you for your support!

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