



# 5,816 DAYS... *and COUNTING!*

What a difference a day makes...  
*What a difference 5,816 days can make!*

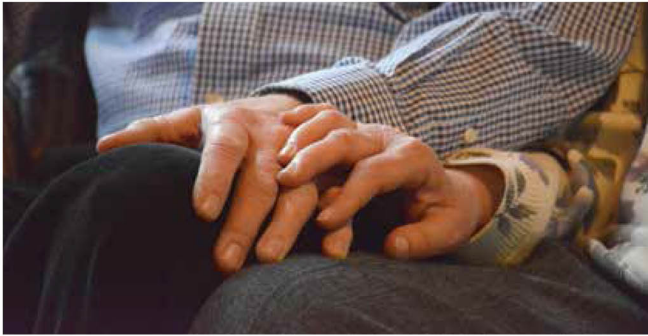
"My cardiologist told me if I don't have valve replacement surgery, I won't be around very much longer. When you are a young mother of two and hear something like that... it tends to get your attention," recalled Pam Lee speaking about her situation back in 2000.

Pam was born with a congenital heart defect and never had any

symptoms until she was a mature adult. "I played sports. In fact, I was a tomboy as a kid, and never had any problems related to my heart until my mid-forties. Then I began to notice I would have shortness of breath when pushing a heavy grocery cart or climbing a flight of stairs. At that point, I knew I needed to do something."

As Pam and her husband Abbott learned, deciding to have major open heart surgery is a difficult decision. Selecting a surgeon and hospital can be even more challenging. "We were very much aware of Deborah's incredible mission since my mother was an active volunteer as a Deborah fundraising chapter member in the 1950s," said Abbott. But it was Deborah's legendary care and impeccable reputation in the medical community which made their decision an easy one. "My cardiologist said there are only two places in the entire country he would go for this surgery if he needed it, and Deborah was one of them. So we chose Deborah," said Pam, who had a mechanical valve implanted in her heart in December of 2000.

At Deborah Heart and Lung Center our caregivers repair more



*Pam and her husband Abbott live in Chatsworth, NJ, where Abbott's family has farmed cranberries since the 1860's. Today, Abbott is the owner of Integrity Propagation, which provides plant material for cranberry growers across the United States and Canada.*

than just hearts and lungs. Marriages are extended, lives are restored and additional family memories are made possible. Pam's story is yet another example of Deborah's extraordinary impact on those who benefit from our expert care. As a result of our philosophy of caring, Deborah is ranked Number One in patient satisfaction in the state of New Jersey and in the top 2% of all hospitals nationwide.

Surgeries like Pam's put a strain on the whole family. The Lees' son, Jeremiah, who was 16 at the time, recalls the ordeal. "My sister Rebekah and I didn't fully understand what exactly was going on medically, but we do remember that it was a stressful and scary time. Deborah's family-oriented culture makes a big difference on not just the patients but family members as well. That caring culture is obvious and very

reassuring. You feel when you arrive at Deborah that everything is going to be okay," says Abbott.

Since her valve replacement in 2000 Pam, now 68, has also had a pacemaker implanted, and required a few other short stays at Deborah, yet Pam and Abbott continue to enjoy an active lifestyle. The Lees credit Deborah with providing them the opportunity to have celebrated so many of life's most cherished moments together. As a family, they have celebrated and enjoyed; the day their children graduated high school and college, the days they watched Rebekah graduate medical school and when Jeremiah received his master's degree, the 17 additional wedding anniversaries, countless family dinners, vacations and all the very special sights and sounds the world has to offer. "None of which would have been possible without Deborah," notes Pam.

Like thousands of other families, the Lees' 'Deborah Story' is a happy one. Due to their own personal experiences and the fact that in 95 years Deborah has never issued a bill to a patient, Pam and Abbott have become loyal supporters of Deborah Hospital Foundation. Through the generosity of the Lees and many other grateful individuals, Deborah's altruistic mission continues to positively impact the lives of families throughout the country.

"In today's world, it is wonderful to know there is a place like Deborah where people can go and get the expert medical help that they need," said Pam. "We have been blessed with the gift of more time together, how can you put a price on that? This is precisely why we are so supportive."

Here's to the next 5,816 days, Pam!