

I AM ST. HELENA HOSPITAL

Sharon James: Miracles Do Happen

Sharon James is a tiny, soft-spoken, R.N., who is the Home Health Referral Facilitator for St. Helena Hospital. She has worked at St. Helena Hospital for 14 years, and for the last four years has coordinated home care for patients when they leave SHH. She loves getting to know her patients and making sure their needs are met once they go home.

Before coming to SHH, Sharon was a nurse at Kaiser Hospital in downtown Oakland for 16 years, in “the concrete jungle,” as she describes it. She tells the following story about how she came to SHH:

“I had recently become a Seventh-day Adventist. I had seen a picture of St. Helena Hospital and thought it was beautiful. In 1989, I was in the rooftop parking lot of Kaiser Hospital when the Loma Prieta earthquake struck. I was terrified, and I said a prayer to God.” I said, “God, if you let me live through this, I’m going leave here and go to St. Helena Hospital to work.” Sharon continues, “Obviously, I did live through it, and soon afterward came to SHH and began work in Med Surg. It all happened easily, and seemingly miraculously.”

Sharon was single for 27 years and raised her son Daniel alone. Daniel is now 37 and works for TechTV in San Francisco. “A real computer techie,” says Sharon.

Then another wonderful thing happened to her. She began taking piano lessons with Jessie James, the wife of Dr. Harold James, who practiced here at SHH for many years. She eventually met Mrs. James’ son, Eddie, and two years ago they were married. Sharon says that since her marriage the piano playing has gone by the wayside a bit. “I don’t seem to have time to practice now,” she explains.

Eddie is a retired United Airlines pilot, and they spend their time together cooking, gardening, camping in the redwoods, and traveling in their Toyota Forerunner. They love the ocean and often fly kites at the coast. Another big interest is their two-masted sailboat, which happens to be docked in Greece. When asked why they have a boat in Greece, Sharon laughs, “Eddie bought it over the Internet. We have gone there to sail it, but we will bring it here eventually.”

Sharon loves working at St. Helena Hospital. She enjoys her fellow staff members, the Christian environment, and says, “It was like night and day, coming here from Kaiser. Before I came here, I thought all hospitals were the same, but they aren’t. We really do treat the whole person, physically, mentally and spiritually. This is a special and wonderful place to work.”

