

## A Life of Service Comes Full Circle



Laurence and Frances McIntosh have watched McLeod grow over the years from a uniquely close perspective. They have witnessed firsthand the progression from a single hospital to the seven-hospital regional health system it is today.

“It was a far cry from what we have now,” recalled Frances, referring to McLeod Memorial Hospital, where her husband and their three children were born. “It lacked private rooms, and rooms often shared bathrooms and telephones.”

Just prior to Laurence’s time on the hospital’s Board of Trustees, McLeod Memorial Hospital moved from its previous location, four blocks down Cheves Street, to its current one. In 1982, Laurence became Chairman of the Board and was a driving force in McLeod’s transition to a premier, state-of-the-art medical system that represents one of the largest not-for-profit health systems in South Carolina. During his tenure, McLeod began serving critically ill babies in the area’s only Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), performed the region’s first open heart surgery, established a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit and welcomed McLeod Darlington and McLeod Dillon into the McLeod family.

“McLeod is a great asset to Florence and the region, and it must continue to grow in both technology and capacity in order to serve this community,” Laurence explained.

Frances, who was born in Birmingham, Alabama, and moved to Florence during her high school years, formed her own close connection with McLeod during Laurence’s time on the hospital board.

“I would go with him to meetings and different functions and meet people, then not see them again for a year,” recalled Frances. “However, when I started volunteering for the hospital I began to really make friends.”

Frances’ volunteer work at McLeod included chairing the Children’s Miracle Network Telethon, rocking babies in the newborn nursery as part of the “Cuddler’s Program,” and knitting caps for NICU babies.

“I was the youngest person there,” Frances said, referring to her participation in the knitting group. “But volunteering, and later becoming a donor to the McLeod Foundation, gave me an opportunity to get involved from a different perspective.”

With their intimate knowledge of the hospital, Laurence and Frances see the need to contribute to the McLeod Foundation. They have done so generously for many years.

“We have an interest in what McLeod is doing,” said Frances, “not only for the benefit of others, but for our own benefit as we may need those services ourselves one day.”

By establishing a charitable gift annuity, the couple is again helping others while also realizing a benefit for themselves.

“Giving a charitable gift annuity is a winwin situation,” explained Laurence. “The hospital keeps the principal upon your passing, but you receive the income from that principal for life. An annuity benefits you in life and provides a lasting benefit to the hospital once you are gone.”

Establishing a charitable gift annuity was quick and easy, according to the couple. “It was not a complicated process,” Laurence said. Setting up a legacy gift to benefit the hospital that the two take such pride in was “very easy,” Frances added.

Laurence’s life began at McLeod, and a significant portion of it was spent making it a better healthcare provider for the people of the region. Likewise, Frances gave birth to their three children at McLeod and has given generously of her time and finances to make a difference in the lives of McLeod patients. Their legacy commitment ensures that the positive impact they have made will continue to be felt long after they are gone.