



NASH HEART CENTER

The beat goes on

Jackie Pully will readily admit that, even in retirement, she is just not the type of person who can sit still. Her involvement is reflected in her busy schedule, which includes helping with meals through the First United Methodist Church in Wilson and working with Volunteers in Mission.

She also has an interesting link to the history of Nash Health Care. When the facility first opened in 1971, Pully was one of the registered nurses who rode with patients in ambulances as they were transferred from the old Park View Hospital to the new Nash General Hospital. During her medical career, she was a nurse for the Nash County Health Department, so she was aware that there was a strong possibility she could inherit the same heart problems her mother and sister had faced. Pully developed complications from tachycardia—an abnormally rapid heartbeat. As a nurse, she was keenly aware of the need to take care of her heart, and her cardiologist kept monitoring her with periodic checkups.

One Sunday, after participating in a commissioning service at her church, she experienced a severe episode of tachycardia, and after taking her blood pressure, she realized it was elevated. At first, she thought this may have been the result of the excitement and anticipation of her upcoming mission trip to Costa Rica—her second mission trip to the Latin American country—but when the problem wouldn't subside, she went to the Emergency Care Center at Nash Health Care. Lab work revealed that she had experienced a small heart attack. She knew she would have to have a heart catheterization.

At first, Pully wanted to have her catheterization at another facility; she didn't realize that Nash Health Care also offered PCI procedures.

"They answered all of my questions. Staying at my hometown hospital made all the difference in the world." Why would I travel by an ambulance to another hospital to have the same procedure done by the same physician?" she said.



"Staying at my hometown hospital made all the difference in the world." —Jackie Pully

Pully's cardiac catheterization revealed 80 percent blockage in one of her main arteries, and a 40 percent blockage in a smaller one. Pully was the second patient to undergo a PCI procedure at the Nash Heart Center.

Today, Pully, like James Lucas, is recovering nicely and looking forward to the future.

"I feel so much better," she says, expressing her gratitude to all those who helped her during her procedure.

In her Nash County living room, close to her coffee table and perhaps even closer to her heart, Pully keeps a photo album filled with memories from her first Costa Rican mission excursion. It shows the gorgeous tropical landscape, the progress made on building a new church, and the even more beautiful smiles from her Costa Rican friends.

"I'm hoping to go back," she said, recollecting the wonderful memories and blessings of her first trip. Her face seems to reflect the peaceful determination of a woman who takes her faith seriously by putting it into action through helping others.

It is clear that the question of a return to Costa Rica would not be a question of "if," but rather a matter of "when."



Pully (center) with Nash Heart Center Medical Director Dr. Dave Varma (left) and cardiologist Dr. Gaurav Lakhanpal (right).