

Lori Quillen

By: Emma Kettner

Lori Quillen is my aunt on my mom's side. She was born in Black Creek, Wisconsin on July 8th, 1962. Lori had a very traditional childhood. Her dad worked while her mom stayed home and took care of the kids and the house. She had two sisters and one brother. Their names are Shari, Connie (my mom), and Scott. They took an annual family vacation which was usually fishing. Her family and friends were pretty healthy so she didn't have much exposure to hospitals or doctor's offices. Whenever someone was hurt or sick she always thought that she should do something. Lori went to Fox Valley Technical Institute for many reasons. It was a two year program and she received an Associate Degree in Nursing. There were several reasons she selected this degree. First, it was the fastest way to become a nurse, she wanted to do "bedside" nursing, direct patient care, and an associate program specialized in that type of nursing. Secondly, it was more affordable than four years of college. Third, it was a local school, so she could have a part time job and live at home.

Lori was a bedside nurse, supervisor, manager and a clinic nurse. She inspired me to also want to become a nurse. I too love the idea of helping people, whether it's illness or injury. Whenever someone is hurt or sick I always go and help because I feel like I need to. I look up to my aunt because she loves to help people in every way. I want to be like her and help people get better and heal. She is my hero because she is the best role model.

Lori is not exactly sure what inspired her to become a nurse. As long as she can remember when someone asked her what she wanted to be when she grew up her instant response was a nurse. There was never a question in her mind. Her mom went to nursing school, but she quit shortly

after starting. When Lori was little she had two favorite T.V. shows: Marcus Welby, M.D. and Julia, a show about an African American woman nurse. She really liked the idea of being able to help someone feel better, no matter how bad the situation.

Lori moved twice in the past 20 years. In about 1995, she moved from Black Creek to Eureka, California because her husband, Jim, got a job. She now lives in Denver, Colorado where she moved to in 2010. Lori said that nursing is a career where there are jobs anywhere. She also said that there were different cultures, environments and lifestyles which kept her life interesting. She learned so much, tried new things, and was sometimes forced to spread her wings a little. It really helped her to grow as a person. Lori got married, and now has one daughter named Hannah who is 12 years old. She is now 53. In 2010, she retired from her wonderful nursing career.

Overall, I think Lori is a very generous, kind, caring, loving person. She was made to be a nurse. I consider her my hero because she inspired me to help other people like she did. She never stopped helping people even when she had a family of her own to take care of. I feel very lucky to have Lori as an aunt.