

She teaches others how to save lives

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do in the event of an emergency. It extends to the understanding of the why of it.

"When a person turns white, it is because of lack of blood. If they are blue, it is because of a lack of oxygen. Understanding what is happening in that body is going to put you in a much better position to do what is right in that first vital four minutes you've got to respond," Loe said.

LOE FULFILLED a portion of her goal to enter the medical field by completing pre-med classes. But early on, she realized that with three small children, she was going to have to forgo continuing in medical school.

Nursing was an alternative she bypassed because of the rigid hours. She opted instead for a class, offered by Detroit General Hospital that would give her the status of emergency medical technician (EMT).

In addition to doing the work she enjoyed and the on-the-job training, the hours were ideal. She could put

in a full week's work with two 24-hour shifts and still have optimum time to spend with her children.

That was 10 years ago. The interim years brought advanced paramedical training, a job with Paramed Inc., which brought her in touch with every police and fire department in Oakland County, and, three years ago, self-employment.

She describes the work she does now as "part training, which is my pet, and part PR (public relations), spreading the word on the value of the bystander, knowing what to do in an emergency situation, which is my passion."

TRAINING FIRE and police personnel through Paramed Inc., which owns several ambulance companies working in the county, is the priority because they usually are first responders to the scene of an emergency.

She has also trained part-time firefighters, set up mock disasters, designed evacuation plans for nursing homes and headed disaster drills

Explaining the 'why'

to test emergency services.

She has worked with the Oakland County Sheriff Department and in medical centers, hospitals and the Oakland Police Academy. And she has given classes to special criminal investigation agencies whose personnel carry guns so they can be prepared to help one of their own in dangerous situations.

Loe is on call now 24 hours a day — answering emergency questions, trouble shooting, solving problems, taking complaints, finding lost equipment left on the scene at one of the 175 calls a day responded to by Paramed Inc.

But, she says, she has never missed a swim meet where one of her children were participating.

"All of my (live) children are swimmers. The three oldest have been on the swim teams at North Farmington High, and I can always juggle things to see them in competition. I go to the office when I feel like it.

"I design new classes as new things come up. Right now, I'm in the process of setting up the emergency stations for the Free Press Marathon (in October) and reactivating an Explorer Post," she said.

EXPLORER POSTS were initiated

by Boy Scouts of America for older scouts' career exploration. Loe's proposed Explorer Post would be medical career-oriented and would be coeducational with on-the-job training in cooperation with Paramed Inc.

"There are only two people in an ambulance who are bringing an emergency room to the scene of the accident," Loe said. "Those two people need all the help they can get from a knowledgeable public. Training our young people is so important. Knowing whether to prop them (the victims) up or lay them down can so many times mean the difference between life and death."

Loe's Explorer Post members will learn the same basics, interwoven with her own philosophy, that she teaches to the professionals.

"First, you have to know what is happening in the body in that first four minutes. And when you not only know it but understand it, you've got the confidence to move. I teach confidence. I know that sounds off beat, but you're not going to be good to anybody if you don't have it," she said.

Another important facet is overcoming the fear of blood. "There is no time allowed for you to faint. Some of what we see is messy, but if

you understand what is happening, it is a lot easier to go ahead and do what has to be done," she said.

ANOTHER PIVOTAL facet is vocabulary.

"Often, we are directed by a doctor by radio. When you ask intelligent questions with the proper language, you are going to get intelligent quick answers back. Incidentally, this applies to everyone, whether you are asking the question for yourself or someone else.

"Try it. If you let your doctor know you have some knowledge of what is going on through your vocabulary, you are going to get some good responses," she said.

Loe is a Michigan native whose family moved to Farmington Township in 1958 when she entered Duncel Junior High School. She is married to David Loe, a Farmington Hills police officer.

Christmas is a special time for the Loe family.

The three older children assume responsibility of the younger ones and the family celebration for three days while their parents are gone from dawn to dusk participating in what Carol Loe calls "making Christmas what Christmas is all about."

SINCE CAROL Loe's affiliation with Paramed Inc. the couple have been ambulance driver-volunteers, bringing hospitalized patients and residents in nursing homes to their families for whatever time is allowed during the holiday period.

"Paramed furnishes the ambulances without charge. The drivers are all volunteers," she said. "We bring them out with IVs, on machines, in wheelchairs. Many of them are children. Many haven't been home for months. Many know this will be their last Christmas at home. It's a very emotional time for us, but so special, so very, very special."

Parental aid for infant death

Parents who have experienced the loss of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth or in infancy are the focus of a bereavement support group sponsored by St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, 909 Woodward, Pontiac.

The program, H.E.L.P. (Handling Emotional Loss of Pregnancy), will meet 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday, in the hospital's Xavier Pavilion. For more information, call the hospital at 858-3560.

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