

# FairFacts



Auxiliary of Inova Fairfax Hospital Quarterly Newsletter

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## *Auxiliary Prepares to Celebrate Golden Anniversary*

**By Bill Foster**

In 1956, the Fairfax Hospital Auxiliary was organized for the purpose of serving the Fairfax Hospital, which was then in the planning stage. Volunteers from eight districts of Fairfax County joined together to raise funds for the Auxiliary when the Fairfax Hospital became a reality. Two thousand dollars were raised and deposited in

banks as a result of charity balls, bake sales, card parties and various other fundraising activities.

In 1959, the Auxiliary became inactive; however, it was reactivated in October 1960, and bylaws were adopted and ratified by the Board of Trustees of the Fairfax Hospital Association. Oct. 27, 1960, is now considered the birthdate of the Auxiliary.

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## *Volunteer Honored for Devotion to Babies*

There's something about Mary, or more to the point, something about Mary Isibel and babies.

Thousands of babies in Family Centered Care have been rocked, fed, burped, comforted and cuddled by this longtime Auxiliary volunteer. Mary loves babies, and she has devoted 17 years to sharing that passion with Inova's tiny patients. She recently retired from her Wednesday duties in FCC and was honored in July by the unit's leaders with a plaque that reads: "Mary Isibel, FCC Nursery Volunteer, 1993-2010, Inova Fairfax Hospital Women's Center."

Mary joined the Auxiliary following her husband's death in 1990, the year she also retired from the government. She recalls that everyone had been very special while her husband was hospitalized and she decided to join the ranks of Auxiliary volunteers.

In addition to watching over the babies, Mary has stocked shelves, kept supplies current and



trained new volunteers. She also has served as a Thursday day chair of Patient Escort Services for 19 years, and will continue in this post.

Mary marvels at "how individual each baby is and how much of their personalities show from birth." She feels that a lot of babies don't go to comfortable situations and that a couple minutes of extra care might be something that lingers in their subconscious. In her years of helping the nurses and mothers, she has developed a reputation for being able to put her hands on a baby and get it to quiet down. "They like to feel your heartbeat," she says.

Mary has two sons and three grandchildren and has enjoyed every minute of both generations. Asked if she's already having baby withdrawal, she says, "It's terrible."



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