

by Jackie Perrone

Jamie MacDougall

“Honored” and “Blessed” are words that Jamie MacDougall uses a lot. A few others that could be added are “dedicated” and “loyal” and “humble,” as she lives her mission of helping others, leading colleagues, and battling the pandemic which has disrupted so many lives.

She says her family moved around a lot during her childhood, (Georgia, New Jersey, Oklahoma), eventually landing in Irmo; Jamie was in one of the first classes to graduate from Dutch Fork High School. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and attended the University of South Carolina, Midlands Tech, and The Medical University of South Carolina.

When Jamie married Steve MacDougall 21 years ago, neither had any thought of taking on a political career. Yet here he is serving as Mayor of Lexington, while Jamie supports his community service. She says she is his sounding board, while also sometimes offering different perspectives for him to consider. She tries to shed the difficulties of reading things she knows to be untrue about her husband in public life. “My strength is to help keep Steve on track, and not be distracted by the naysayers.”

“Steve and I met when we worked together in the bar/restaurant industry,” she relates. “After we married, I completed my nursing education and started work at Richland Memorial Emergency Department. Three years later I took a position at Lexington Medical Center ER. For the past 16 years, I have worked weekends so that I could be at home with our daughters Kamryn and Addison during the week.”

At LMC, Jamie is a Clinical Coordinator, which is similar to assistant manager or department charge nurse. “I love my job!” she says. “I am able to be a leader within my department, a caregiver to my community, liaison to EMS and law enforcement. I am so honored to be present on what is often the worst day of a person’s life, and hopefully am able to provide the smallest bit of comfort and compassion.”

Kamryn is a senior at River Bluff High School and Addi is in 7th grade at Lexington Middle School. Their mom has been actively involved in fundraising for the schools. Being “flocked” means waking up one morning to discover your front yard hosting 30 plastic flamingos! Thousands of dollars were raised with this stunt.

Here is how Jamie MacDougall sums up her position: “While I grew up across the dam, Lexington has truly been home. I am proud to be a part of the hometown feel community. I am honored to work at the best hospital in South Carolina. I am blessed to be able to raise my family and help make a positive impact on our community.

“I’m a healthcare working mother who’s been battling the front line of the pandemic for almost two years, a mother trying to raise good humans, and a wife that tries to complement her husband’s role in the community.” ■

