



by Jackie Perrone



# Linda Norman

“I like to keep busy and to give back to the community, so I’ve always found a way to volunteer where I live.”

AND HOW! Linda Norman’s casual remark covers a lifetime of creativity, service, and good citizenship. And geography: San Francisco, Africa, Australia, Kansas and today in South Carolina.

These days, she resides happily at Deepwood Estates in Lexington, settling here to be close to her daughter and grandchildren. She “found her way to volunteer” in her adopted community by sewing dolls and bears to be given away. For each of the past 12 years, she has donated 150 bears (with two outfits each) to Lexington County Sheriff’s Department, Sister Care, Toys for Tots, and to hispanic children at St. David’s Lutheran Church in West Columbia. “Making these bears for children who may be going through a hard time gives me joy,” she explains.

Linda Norman grew up in San Francisco, and her world travels began when she married an Agricultural Economist who wrote books, worked as a consultant, and dedicated his life to helping farmers in developing countries grow better crops. In Nigeria and Botswana she taught pre-school and elementary school and polished her skills at sewing and design. “I started making toys because an English teenager in Nigeria made one. Then, soon after I moved to Lexington a niece in the family here visiting, just had to have her bear with her at all times. As the British would say, she put a bee in my bonnet.”

She’s also made several items “on request” for close friends, including a school mascot fox with a backpack, a Spiderman costume for a bear, teddy bears made from the shirts of a man who passed away, and memory pillows from a man’s shirts for his family.

Wherever this citizen of the world lived, she was always active in church, serving on committees and teaching Sunday School. Since moving here, she has worked behind the scenes at the aquarium at Riverbanks Zoo.

Anything you’d like the chance for a do-over? “If I could, I would love to snorkel again at The Great Barrier Reef in Australia.”

“What I enjoy most about living in Lexington, other than the beautiful warm weather and being near my daughter and her family, is the friendly people. Everywhere I go, people are smiling and they are always willing and happy to visit with me for a little bit. I’ve lived all over the world but Lexington is home.” ■

