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**Oh Jenny,
please help me.
Please help me!**

”



St John
Giving



Volunteer Ambulance Officer, Jenny, remembers...

As Volunteer Ambulance Officers, we are trained for all emergencies, but Brooke's case was something else. The call-out originally came in as abdominal pain, but when we arrived on scene, I realised the situation was far worse: it was clearly life-threatening.

The patient was Brooke, a beautiful woman I had known since she was a child. She literally fell into my arms when we arrived.

I'll never forget her asking me: "I'm not going to die, am I?" Despite knowing how serious things were, I told her in no uncertain terms that I wasn't going to let her do that on my shift!

It was an intense situation. Between providing medical aid with my crew members, I was juggling calls to and from

the St John incident room and the helicopter pilot. I also liaised with the local police to cordon off the oval where the chopper would land.

I'm so grateful I was the one who responded that day. But it wasn't just my efforts that gave this story a happy ending: it was the entire crew and the amazing way we all worked together.

I remember Brooke telling me I was heroic that day. I wasn't, as volunteer ambulance officers, we're just everyday people trained to respond to any medical emergency. Day or night. It's just what we do.

And today, thank God, Brooke is with us. Now, she works alongside me as a fellow volunteer. (I even had the privilege of helping to train her.)

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Brooke used to be our neighbour when she was in her crazy teens. Now here she was, lying on the floor, clutching her stomach and in serious, serious trouble.

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“ I remember looking up and seeing Jenny in her uniform. I’ve never been so happy to see someone. ”

As I now look back on that awful day, much of it is still a blur. All I know is that one minute, I had agonising stomach pains and the next, I heard a ‘pop’. Then I collapsed, and all hell broke loose.

My first thought was not to panic, as my girls Tyler and Tatum were there when it happened. It was traumatic for them. There I was on the floor with my husband Brad desperately trying to help – and my parents comforting my week-old baby and the girls.

I tried not to show it, but I was terrified – and when I heard St John ambos had arrived, I remember this immense sense of relief. Then I saw Jenny’s face, and I just lost it. I remember thinking: ‘thank God Jenny is here – she’ll take control’. And didn’t she!

I’d known Jenny since I was a child, and having her there in that moment, it felt like having another mother in the room with me.

I couldn’t believe how calm and professional Jenny and her fellow volunteers were amid the chaos. Jenny was tending to me, reassuring my girls, updating Brad and my parents about what was happening, and fielding phone calls from St John emergency control and from the chopper pilot, all at the same time, it seemed.

It was an incredible chain of events – from the moment Jenny arrived, to the moment the St John team handed me over to the RAC rescue helicopter crew. Without their quick action that day, I might not be here. Or I may have suffered permanent damage.

Until that day, I didn’t realise people like Jenny were volunteers; normal people like me. I was so immensely grateful for what they did, I joined them. Yes, I’m now a Volunteer Ambulance Officer like Jenny. And I couldn’t be prouder.

Western Australia is incredibly lucky to have this network of Volunteer Ambulance Officers throughout the state. None of us ever know when we might need them, but take it from me, when you do, you will be glad they are there by your side in a time of emergency.

That’s why I ask you to donate to this appeal. For volunteers like me, and the amazing Jenny, your support is critical.

Brooke



The tyranny of distance

At 2.646 million square kilometres, Western Australia is the largest territory in the world covered by ambulance service.

But the tyranny of distance means often, accidents happen in extremely remote corners of this vast state: a significant distance from the nearest available help.

That's why the work of volunteer ambulance officers like Jenny is so critical. We currently have 160 sub-branches throughout the state, and your donations help to support our entire volunteer workforce across the St John network.



When you donate to St John, you are also helping to build stronger WA communities through:



Installing new
defibrillators in the
community



Helping fund more
First Aid training for
first responders



Helping equip
volunteer ambulance
officers with the
tools they need



Providing free First
Aid training to WA
school students



Providing transport
for WA's most
vulnerable

**In an emergency,
we'll be by your side.**

will you be by ours?

Be by our side. Donate today.



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