

our hero

# to the rescue

THE NIGHT CLERK CAME RUNNING BACK INTO THE ER, SCREAMING. CLOSELY TRAILED BY A NURSE AND SECURITY GUARD, DR. ALBERT LINTEL, THE PHYSICIAN WORKING THE ER THAT EVENING, RUSHED OUT TO THE PARKING LOT, NOT SURE WHAT HE'D FIND.

## HEROIC TALES FROM DR. ALBERT LINTEL

BY KATE HARTLEY

What he found was a woman in a truck giving birth—breech. “We didn’t have our birthing kit, and the baby’s head was stuck,” says Dr. Lintel. “I used my hands and delivered that baby right there in the truck.” But the infant was born unresponsive, without a pulse. “I knew I could declare him dead or begin CPR, so of course I began CPR”—with the baby’s umbilical cord still attached.

Meanwhile, a stretcher arrived, and mother and baby were quickly transferred onto it and rushed toward the neonatal unit—with Dr. Lintel running alongside, still administering CPR. “Then the baby gasped, and I thought he had died—that the gasp was the stomach,” says Dr. Lintel. But suddenly, the baby started to cry. “Everyone called it a miracle, but in medicine, you can’t play God. You can only do what you’re trained to do and try to get on God’s team,” he says. “I was just happy to be on God’s team for that one.”

As an ER and trauma doc since 1986, it wasn’t the first time Dr. Lintel had been on God’s team. In fact, he’d been on the roster for years—whether that meant saving people...or animals.

“As a child, I was a magnet for injured animals. They would follow me home, and I’d take care of them and let them go,” he recalls. “I originally thought I wanted to be a veterinarian.” When he was 18, a seagull nearly clenched this idea.

“I was on the beach in Cape Cod, feeding the gulls, when I noticed one wasn’t eating,” he tells. A closer look revealed a six-pack plastic wrapper around its beak. Dr. Lintel tackled the bird head-on and removed the plastic. The result? “Well, that bird didn’t stick around to share my crackers, that’s for sure,” laughs Dr. Lintel. “He flew off as fast as he could, but that was my number one best animal save.”

Although he is still known to stop traffic regularly to rescue various critters, Dr. Lintel’s interest shifted to people during college. He was initially interested in psychology, but while taking courses at William and Mary, he worked in the ER and loved it. He then attended Emory School of Medicine and completed his residency at Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center before joining the team at a Level II trauma center in Roswell. During his 12-year tenure there, he served as the medical director for Metro Atlanta Emergency Medical Services and chairman of the Metro Atlanta Disaster Committee.

Today, Dr. Lintel puts his vast experience to work at Acworth Immediate Care. “I like the problem solving aspect of urgent care,” he says. “And I really love easing my patients’ apprehensions. To them, it’s the worst cut they’ve ever seen, but to me, I’ve seen it all a hundred times already—and probably much worse.”

And, what about the baby he delivered in the parking lot? That little miracle went home just two days later—healthy and cooing. Dr. Lintel concludes, “After that, I knew I’d done what I set out to do with medicine.” ●

### SAVING LIVES

When you call 911, you expect an ambulance to take you to the hospital, right?

But in the 1980s in metro Atlanta, that system was broken. “Ambulances were circling 285 to find hospitals to receive patients, and people were dying,” says Dr. Lintel. So, he joined a team of other physician volunteers and reconstructed the system.

Today, you can thank that team for ensuring that ambulances have access to hospitals.

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Dr. Lintel practices at Acworth Immediate Care, located at Cedarcrest Rd. and Cobb Pkwy., behind Rite Aid (4450 Calibre Crossing, Acworth, 30101). Acworth Immediate Care is open seven days a week; call 770-975-6540 or visit [www.urgentnow.com](http://www.urgentnow.com) for info.

Photography by Jennifer Harris

