

Laura O. Moore BSN, MN

Founder & CEO of Dream House for Medically Fragile Children, Inc.
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About Laura

With over 20 years of pediatric nursing experience, Laura Moore has dedicated her life to improve the lives of medically fragile children. She and her family have two biological children, Hayden, 21, and Anna 19. As a family, they have fostered six medically fragile children over the last three years and provided respite care for another six. One of these beautiful children stole their heart and is now a permanent part of their family. Her name is Katie. She is 10 years old and is only the second child in medical history to survive two, back-to-back five organ transplants (stomach, small intestine, colon, spleen and pancreas- twice, two weeks apart!).

As a nurse, unit administrator, and clinical nurse educator, Laura noticed that although today's advancing technology allows doctors to save children who would have died in the past, the life and future of these children is bleak at best. The very technology that saved them is now required to sustain their life, making their care much more complicated and costly.

Unfortunately, these medically fragile children are often abandoned or taken away from their families when appropriate care cannot be provided. Many of these fragile children live shuffled between hospitals, untrained foster homes, and adult nursing facilities with no family to call their own.

In addition, tearful families who love their children but can not provide for their care, watch helplessly as their children are taken into State custody and placed in foster care far away from home. Dozens of children with high level needs live in the hospital for years with no family, no home, and soon become depressed and lose hope. These children then lose motivation to participate in their care and as a result, their already fragile condition deteriorates rapidly. Staff become frustrated and turnover is high.

Families are being torn apart. Children are spending years isolated in hospital rooms or being institutionalized in adult nursing facilities and acute care institutions. Each situation wastes tremendous resources. Although millions of dollars and tremendous resources may miraculously save the lives of these precious children, Laura questioned the kind of life they were being saved for. She knew something had to be done.

Laura is the Founder and CEO of the Dream House for Medically Fragile Children, Inc. with a mission to increase the opportunities for medically fragile children to live in a stable, permanent home environment through the development of support resources and programs which increase the number of families and communities prepared to care for them.

Her goal is to make it possible for medically fragile children to leave the hospital in a more timely manner, keep them out of institutional care, and give them the home, family and future the so desperately needed to survive.

The Dream House organization, now in their seventh year, has a corporate office with 18 staff members and has raised more than \$3 million serving over 900 medically fragile children in 42 Georgia counties. Their goal in 2009 is to expand their programs state wide and begin construction on the Dream House Resource Center LLC in Conyers, GA.

Education:

- 1983 BSN in Nursing from Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama
1989 Masters of Nursing Education from Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Professional Experience:

- 2001-Present Founder and CEO, Dream House for Medically Fragile Children, Inc.
2001-2003 Staff Level IV RN and Clinical Educator for 5 East, Egleston campus, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA)
1998-2002 Founder and President, North Georgia Society of Pediatric Nursing
1998-2001 Staff RN (part-time) CHOA
1994-2000 Associate Professor, Pediatric Instructor, Dept. of Nursing, Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston, GA
1994 Research Nurse for Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Study, Atlanta CDC
1990-1991 Staff RN (part-time), Scottish Rite Children's Hospital, Atlanta, GA
1990-1991 Pediatric Instructor, School of Nursing, Georgia State University, Atlanta
1986-1988 Community Education Development Coordinator, Egleston/CHOA
1984-1986 Chair, Nursing Standards of Care Committee, Egleston/CHOA
1983-1991 Staff RN, Egleston/CHOA

Awards:

- 2008 U.S. Local Business Association, 'Best of Snellville Award' for Foster Care
2008 United Way Gwinnett, Legacy Award for Talent
2008 Finalist – Health Care Innovation, *Atlanta Business Chronicle* 'Healthcare Heroes Award'
2007 Gwinnett County 'Woman of the Year', Awarded by *Gwinnett Magazine*
2007 Jean Harris Award, Rotary International, District 6910
2007 Finalist – *Atlanta Business Chronicle* 'Healthcare Heroes Award'
2007 Volvo for Life Award™ top 3 National Finalist
2007 ABC News 'Person of the Week', January 5th, 2007
2007 Best of Gwinnett Award for Best Charity and Best Fundraising Event
2007 People Magazine 'Heroes Among Us' January 8th, 2007
2006 Best of Gwinnett Award for Best Charity and Best Fundraising Event
2006 Leadership Character Award, presented by Turknnett Leadership Group
2005 Presidential 'Call to Service Award' for Distinguished Volunteer Service
2004 Volvo for Life Award™ top 9 National Finalist
2004 Jean Harris Award, Nominee Rotary International, District 6910
2003 Legacy Award Nominee, United Way, Gwinnett
2003 Light House Award, Girl Scout Council of Northeast Georgia

Fundraising Accomplishments:

- 2001-2008 \$3.5 million as of 3rd Quarter 2008

Publications:

- 2008 '*Family for Keeps*™ Resource Guide: Common Health Conditions and Home Care of Medically Fragile Children', a handbook providing a basic body systems review along with descriptions of common health conditions and home care experienced by medically fragile children.
1990 'A Guide to Patient Care Standards', utilized for clinical staff training, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Egleston Campus.
1988 Author, "Necrotizing Enterocolitis: A parental Guide", utilized for parent education at the Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta, GA 1986 – 1988

Presentations:

- 2008 'The Role of the NonProfit Board and the CEO', Guest Lecturer, NonProfit Leadership Course, Kennesaw State University, May 16th
- 2008 'My Cup Runneth Over', Keynote Speaker, Avondale Baptist Church Annual Woman's Luncheon, May 3rd
- 2007 'Mission for Miracles', Keynote Speaker, International Business Academy Luncheon, June 15th
- 2007 'How to Save a Life', Keynote Speaker, Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, Women's Executive Leadership Luncheon, May 14th
- 2007 'From My Heart to Yours', Keynote Speaker, Legacy Luncheon: Living a Life On Purpose, Mtn. Park Baptist Church, May 12th
- 2001-present 'Dream House for Medically Fragile Children, Inc.' presented to Atlanta area individuals, groups, organizations and businesses to increase community awareness for medically fragile children and their families.
- 2000 Poster Presentation, Society of Pediatric Nurses Annual Meeting, "The Family Project", San Diego, CA
- 2000 Poster Presentation, Georgia League of Nurses Annual Education Meeting, "The Family Project", Callaway Gardens, GA
- 1999 Speaker, "Nursing As A Career Choice", presented to fifth graders at Career Day, Arcado Elementary School, Lilburn, GA
- 1998-2000 Speaker, "Introduction to the Society of Pediatric Nurses", presented during SPN
- 1998-2000 Speaker, "Girls Growing Strong in Girl Scouting", presented during recruitment workshops, Lilburn, GA
- 1997 Speaker, "Health & Safety Curriculum Choices", presented to Arcado Elementary School faculty, Lilburn, GA
- 1994-1999 Speaker, "Healthy Heart Living", presented to fourth graders at Miller Elementary School, Clarkston, Georgia.
- 1993-1995 Speaker, "First Aid", presented to Boy Scout Pack 552, Lilburn, GA
- 1990 Speaker, "Growing Up Safe", presented to Shallowford Presbyterian Youth Group, Atlanta, GA

Professional and Business Memberships:

- 2007- Present Parent Advisory Group, American Academy of Pediatrics
- 2007- Present Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce
- 2007- Present International Business Academies Limited
- 2004- Present Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children
- 2002- Present Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce
- 2002- Present Lilburn Business Association
- 2002- Present Community Council of Gwinnett County
- 1997-2002 Society of Pediatric Nurses
- 1983-2002 Georgia Nurses Association
- 1983-Present Sigma Theta Tau, Nursing Honor Society
- 1983-Present American Nursing Association

Professional, Corporate and Community Service:

- 2008 Children's Choir Assistant, Mtn Park United Methodist Church
- 2007 Atlanta Neighborhood Indicators Project, Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta
- 2006-2007 Chair, Medically Fragile Chapter, Georgia Association of Homes and Services for Children
- 2001-2002 President, Yellow Daisy Neighborhood Women's Club, Lilburn, GA
- 2000 & 2001 5th District Delegate to the Georgia Nurses Association Annual Convention
- 2000-2001 Chair, Parent/Child Council, Georgia Nurses Association
- 1998-2002 President, North Georgia Chapter, Society of Pediatric Nurses
- 1999-2001 National Bylaw Committee, Society of Pediatric Nurses
- 1999-2002 Website developer and master for the Evergreen Service Unit, Girl Scouts
- 1998-2002 Service Unit Director, Girl Scouts of America, Evergreen Service Unit, Gwinnett County
- 1998-2001 Coordinator of the Mountain Park United Methodist Church Christmas Pageant
- 1998-2000 Preschool Sunday School Music Director, Mountain Park United Methodist Church
- 1996-2000 First Aid Volunteer, "Fun Run" benefit for Arcado Elementary School, Lilburn GA
- 1996-1998 Health Fair, Health & Safety Committee, Arcado Elementary, Lilburn, GA
- 1995-Present Troop Leader, Girl Scouts of America, Troop 2701, Lilburn, GA
- 1995-Present Volunteer, First Aider, Girl Scouts of America, Evergreen Service Unit, Gwinnett County
- 1992-1995 President, Yellow Daisy Neighborhood Women's Club, Lilburn, GA