

Heidi J. Moore Biography

Heidi Moore is one of Georgia's most visible advocates for children's healthcare reform in the state of Georgia. Prior to her advocacy efforts, she had a promising career with Amoco/BP Oil Company where she held various positions of increasing responsibility in engineering, management, environmental, strategic marketing planning and real estate development.

After the birth of her first son Jacob, who has Down syndrome & Autism, she quit her job so that she could ensure his needs were met as well as help other families cope with the challenges of having children with special needs. She uses the skills she obtained in the business world to be an advocate for Jacob and the thousands of other families in Georgia who have children with special needs. Although Jacob has had over 100 procedures and surgeries (Over 25 spinal taps, GI, heart, ENT, eye, etc.), it hasn't stopped his energetic and loving spirit to succeed in life. Heidi's hope and dream is that society will see Jacob for his abilities and not disabilities, as he continues to amaze everyone that he encounters in the world.

Heidi has a distribution list of more than 2,500 plus members to promote awareness of the advocacy issues that affect children and adults with disabilities and empower parents with information to help make necessary changes in Georgia. Because of her efforts, Heidi was involved in a six part mini-series by the Georgia Dept. of Education and Georgia Public Broadcasting. The series, focused on parents' involvement in the school system and maximizing students' potential in the public education system. In addition, Heidi has continued to work with various media outlets (AJC newspaper, FOX, CBS, CNN, AP, and various other local newspapers and talk radio outlets) to help to bring awareness to disability issues & childhood cancer research.

Heidi organized a "Healthcare for Kids Rally" at the State Capitol in 2006 which had over 750 participants. The Rally was an effort to unite parents and those who love and care for our children, together as one, to inform Georgia's leaders that healthcare for children in our state must be a priority. The Rally encouraged our leaders towards wise spending of Georgia's tax-payer dollars in the healthcare system.

Heidi was appointed to the State Advisory Panel for special education for a three year term from 2005-08. She is also a member of the Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research, National Down Syndrome Congress, Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta, Unlock the Waiting Lists, Parent to Parent of Georgia, Georgia Autism Society, Special Olympics, Camp Sunshine, CURE Childhood Cancer, The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, National Down Syndrome Society, Families of Children Under Stress (FOCUS), North Metro Miracle League, Scarborough & Friends Foundation and Sibley Heart Center Kids at Heart Program.

She was an Executive Board Member & Executive Director of the Down Syndrome Association of Atlanta from 2002 to 2006 and resigned because of the need to increase her advocacy efforts in the State. Currently, Heidi is on the Board of Directors of the North Metro Miracle League, an adaptive sports and social program for individuals with disabilities. Heidi also co-founded the S.O.S. Kids (Save Our Special Kids) Rally held in 2003, the precursor to her current advocacy awareness campaign.

In 2004, Heidi was awarded the "Advocate of the Year" Award from the Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities. In 2005, Heidi was appointed by the Governor's office to be on three Medicaid Reform committees looking at overhauling the entire Medicaid system. In October 2008 and again in December 2011, Heidi was appointed by the Governor Perdue and now Governor Deal to be on the Olmstead Planning Committee for home and community based services for individuals with disabilities and mental health concerns in Georgia. She continues to work on that committee to help insure families of children and adults with disabilities have access to proper care and be allowed to stay out in the community with necessary supports. In addition, Heidi was a contributing author for the newly released book "*Gifts 2: How People with Down Syndrome Enrich the World*". See Chapter 50! On August 27, 2011 Heidi received the Emily Award from Corrigan Care for her outstanding contributions to the special needs community. On November 18, 2012, Heidi was recognized for her continued support and advocacy for music therapy from the National American Music Therapy Association. In addition on January 2012, she was appointed to be on the Georgia Medicaid task force looking to overhaul the entire Medicaid system for the Aged, Blind and Disabled populations. In January 2013-2015, Heidi was appointed to the Georgia Developmental Disabilities Advisory Council to help bring together disability services, processes and outcomes to better serve this population of individuals.

On November 13, 2009, Jacob was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL) - also known as Childhood Leukemia. More information can be found on www.teamjacob.org. To following Jacob's Journey, please go to: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/prayforjacobmoore/mystory> .

Heidi is also actively involved in advocating for additional funding in pediatric cancer research in the United States through educating the community and elected officials. The Moore family is currently helping to fund Dr. Crispino's Down syndrome – Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia project at Northwestern University through the Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research.

On January 20, 2013, Jacob completed chemotherapy for Leukemia after a long 3.5 yrs of treatment and will continue to be monitored by the AFLAC Cancer Center for another 4.5 years until he is considered "cured of cancer" at the age of 18 yrs old (total of 8 yrs of treatment and monitoring). www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecN1e5dSUcQ On 3/10/13, over 350 family and friends celebrated by having a "No Moore Chemo" party. Senator John Albers and the State of Georgia declared this day as "Jacob Moore Day" in the State of Georgia. www.youtube.com/watch?v=2f9gzQZutvs In addition, in September 2013, Jacob and his family were involved in working with Senator Albers and Governor Deal to declare September as Childhood Cancer awareness month in the State of Georgia! www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltojLTDR69E

To see some of Heidi's latest advocacy newsletters and further disability information, please go to www.UniteOurVoices.com . You can also follow Heidi on Twitter at www.twitter.com/UniteOurVoices and Face Book group "UniteOurVoices".

Heidi J. Moore graduated from Purdue University in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. She resides in Alpharetta with her husband Steven and her two sons, Jacob and Jared and dogs (Libby & Lance)