

August 1, 2021

Atlanta, Ga- August is World Breastfeeding Month and every year the Georgia Breastfeeding Coalition (GBC) honors those in Georgia that go above and beyond in supporting breastfeeding families. The GBC chooses a Breastfeeding-Friendly Physician, Breastfeeding Friendly-Healthcare Provider, and a Breastfeeding-Friendly Business each year. We are pleased to announce the winners for 2021.

The **Breastfeeding-Friendly Business** Award goes to Maupin Engineering, Inc. in Savannah, GA. Since 2005 this company has provided engineering services for commercial, residential, industrial, institutional, and municipal clients. According to their nominator, this business allows parent employees to bring their baby to work with them until 6 months of age. In conjunction, Maupin Engineering provides time and privacy as needed for pumping mothers. Numerous "office babies" have benefited from this pro-breastfeeding/family friendly environment. President and CEO Jay Maupin said, "MEI strives to create a challenging and rewarding environment where our associates can build their best lives. We are equally family- and client-oriented, knowing that a thriving personal family life creates a pleasant and thriving work environment. As such, providing the nursing mothers in our office the opportunity and facilities to breastfeed, pump privately, and bond with their newborns is a key facet of our philosophy. So far, we have welcomed six newborns of employees plus several foster babies of a team member. We have found that our policies have resulted in our happier work environment as our team members are not distracted with thoughts of being absent from their newborn. We have also seen this increase the bonds between all of our team members since we truly know, and therefore, care for the families of fellow co-workers. This nurtures a thriving working environment where all employees feel seen and understood. We are more than honored to receive this award!" Maupin Engineering is a great champion of Georgia's breastfeeding families.

We had so many wonderful nominations for our **Breastfeeding-Friendly Physician** Award this year that we have decided to award two! Jessica Roberts, MD, Assistant Professor of Neonatology, Emory University School of Medicine, was nominated for her work this year in successfully proposing the implementation of donor human milk feedings for high-risk infants in collaboration with her colleagues at Grady Memorial Hospital. This vulnerable group of infants (born premature and less than 1500g) is at high risk for necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC) and donor human milk, when mother's own milk is unavailable, is one of the best strategies available to reduce the risk of NEC. In addition, Grady cares for a vulnerable population where barriers to breastfeeding are high. The implementation of donor human milk adds to the layers of support for families to successfully breastfeed.

Also recognized is Karla Booker, MD. Dr. Booker practiced as an Ob/Gyn for 13 years and went on to obtain a second board-certification in Family Medicine through Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Booker truly champions feeding choice for parents, facilitating excellent lactation education and clinical care for her patients. Dr. Booker consistently invests her experience, knowledge, and finesse in total patient care by mentoring medical students and through an assistant professorship and role as Clinical Director for the Division of Maternal-Child Health at the Morehouse School of Medicine. Dr. Booker currently practices Urgent Care and is a Medical Director for Breastfeed Atlanta's Newborn Clinic. In these capacities, she was instrumental in battling the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuring vulnerable COVID-positive parents got the care and lactation support they needed.

This year's **Healthcare Provider Award** goes to Maggie Wilkes, BSN, RN, CPN from the Center for Cleft and Craniofacial Disorders at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA). The Center offers highly specialized care for children from birth to age 21 who have a cleft lip and palate, facial trauma, and craniofacial disorders. Maggie is part of an incredible team that sought to increase breastfeeding support and pursued a grant to make improvements in care for at-risk patients being served in their feeding clinic. They collaborated with parents, colleagues, providers, and lactation experts to best identify ways to solve or mitigate the many feeding barriers faced by their patient population. Maggie has been a pediatric nurse for 6 years with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. She has always been passionate about caring for patients and families. Following the birth of her own daughter, Maggie's passion grew deeper as she further realized the need for an extensive support system surrounding the birth of a child. Maggie expressed her appreciation for the support provided from CHOA leadership and the hard work from all members of the team. Maggie is a valuable asset to CHOA and the Center for Cleft and Craniofacial Disorders goes the extra mile in patient advocacy and support.

We would like to recognize all those who were nominated this year for their continued work to support breastfeeding in Georgia:

Dr. Shayna Roaf-Smith, Flourish Pediatrics (Sandy Springs)

Georgia Northwestern Technical College (Gordon County Campus)

Dr. Neena Alex, Wellstar Cobb Hospital (Marietta)

COR Inc., Jennifer Bartl, Carver High School (Atlanta)

Dr. Shalini Shah, Village Pediatrics at Vickery (Cumming)

Dr. Allison Rose, Emory School of Medicine (Atlanta)

Dr. Caroline Miller & Mary Hammock, Healthy Steps Pediatrics (Marietta)

Cumming Family Chiropractic (Cumming)

Inspired Motherhood (Locust Grove)

Breastfeed Atlanta (Marietta and Atlanta)

The Midwife Group (Savannah)

Kathy Gnann, CPNP, IBCLC (Cartersville)

Dr. Eric Stout, Kindercare Pediatrics (Statesboro)

The Georgia Breastfeeding Coalition encourages you to follow our website and social media pages and look out for the call for nominations for next year's Awards. We hope to continue to recognize and show our gratitude for those physicians, pealthcare Providers, and businesses in our state who are working to support breastfeeding mothers and babies.

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