

## Breastfeeding Medicine Nurse Practitioner

Robin started her professional life as a nurse in the Intensive and Cardiac Care Units of University Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1978. She practiced acute care medicine through 1985. After the birth of her first son in 1985, she was called to look at the landscape of maternal-child health and saw the huge gap of care that existed around breastfeeding. She came to see breastfeeding as one of the foundational pillars to public health. She worked with breastfeeding mothers when she was a certified childbirth educator, and was librarian for her local La Leche League chapter. Her passion for mothers and babies was unleashed through multiple miscarriages, adoption failure and then success, and two more births. Robin has made mothers and babies the focus in her professional life. She sat for certification as an International Board Certified Lactation Consultant while pregnant with her fourth child in 1991, becoming the first person in the State of Nevada to hold this credential.

During her near three decades as a Board Certified Lactation Consultant and over 35 years serving breastfeeding families, starting very part time as she focused on raising her family, she served in many venues and has had incredible opportunities. Robin opened and staffed the Birthing Center at Northern Nevada Medical Center, arranged key breastfeeding conferences in Reno, participated with Nevada Early Intervention Services on the team of feeding specialists for premature infants and children under age three with medical and physical impairments, provided breastfeeding education and consultations for the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) state program and the Washoe County Health Departments, taught prenatal breastfeeding classes for families and professionals, provided lactation consultations at the Newborn Care Center, and co-founded, directed, provided lactation consultancy and research assistance for a past Lactation Center. She was instrumental in initiating the Northern Nevada Breastfeeding Coalition (NNBFC) and was co-chair. She has supported grant writing for and implementation of Breastfeeding Awareness projects in the Northern Nevada area. In March, 2012, the International Lactation Consultants Association determined that Robin had met the criteria and earned the Fellow of the International Lactation Consultants Association, FILCA designation. She was applauded for her very important accomplishments for families, mothers, babies, colleagues and aspiring lactation consultants. There are only 47 Fellows of the 39,815 IBCLCs in the world. She was honored as a Northern Nevada Woman of Achievement in 2013 and is routinely nominated as a Northern Nevada Nurse of Achievement.

Adding to out-patient care, she worked in-patient hospital lactation for 12 years. During that time to meet the needs of a wider population, Starfish Lactation, Robin's initial private practice was started. She offered it as the model for The Lactation Connection at Renown where Robin worked with a team of lactation consultants. Now that she is a Family Nurse Practitioner, she has more autonomy which provides even less barriers to families to meet their breastfeeding goals. She is currently seeing families at the newly remodeled Renown's Women's Health at 901 E. 2nd Street in a private office with a spectacular view.

She volunteers to mentor those passionate about the field of lactation and provides inestimable volunteer hours each month supporting moms who are breastfeeding. Her love for teaching extends to children where weekly pre COVID, she volunteered to tutor under-served elementary age students. She studies God's Word and His ways. When not working, she tries to do yoga, but more often she can be found spending time with friends, family and her grand-daughter, and enjoying being outdoor in her yard or walking in all the beauty that the Sierra's offer.