



**HEALTHY MOTHERS,  
HEALTHY BABIES**

Coalition of Georgia

*2018 Inspiring Mothers of Georgia*

**Join us as we celebrate the incredible work of our  
2018 Inspiring Mothers of Georgia on:**

**April 29, 2018**

**1:00PM – 3:30PM**

**Loudermilk Conference Center**

**Atlanta, GA**

**Tickets Available: [www.hmhbga.org](http://www.hmhbga.org)**

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### **Amy Corn – Gainesville, GA**



Amy Corn is a Maternal Mental Health Advocate. She works with mothers who are suffering with postpartum depression (PPD) and postpartum anxiety (PPA), with a focus on emotional wellbeing. She is a wife, mother of two, and a two-time survivor of both PPD and PPA.

She works and volunteers full-time promoting awareness and education about the symptoms, risk factors and treatment options for postpartum depression and anxiety. She is a Postpartum Support International (PSI) State Coordinator for Georgia, which allows her to serve as a 'bridge' to connect mothers with the appropriate resources they need. Amy also serves on the board of the PSI GA Chapter as the Volunteer Coordinator where she has the privilege of chairing the Program & Education Committee. She works with an amazing team of volunteers to create maternal mental health based programs and training opportunities for the mothers, families, and providers in our

state.

Amy is passionate about the work that she does and strives to let other moms know that they are not alone, that they are not to blame for what's happening to them and that with the appropriate care they can completely recover.

**"I am humbled and deeply honored to have been nominated, let alone chosen for this award. There are so many great people doing so many great things for the mother's in our state, so to be honored among them is truly a privilege."**

From her Nomination: *"She is a survivor of Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders, and she has made it her mission to increase awareness of Maternal Mental Health and to build resources for mothers in Georgia and specifically outside in rural areas. She takes her job as a board member very seriously and is also our volunteer coordinator which helps provide more services, education and community for mothers. Amy is really a grassroots advocate for mothers."*

## **Alisha Cromartie— Austell, GA**



Alisha Cromartie became the first African-American to represent Cobb County in the state House of Representatives. In 2014, she ran and lost a bid for state superintendent. A year later, Cromartie took a job leading what many consider a Georgia charter school success story, Ivy Preparatory Academy, which began in Gwinnett but expanded to DeKalb. Alisha graduated from Spelman College with a B.A in Sociology in 2000. She then went on to receive a Master of Education with a focus on Urban Education and Leadership at Kennesaw State University.

**“I am honored to be nominated for this award on behalf of mothers like me everywhere. I am often in awe of all that moms can do, starting with my own mom. Thank you HMHB for honoring women who have figured out how to run the world while serving our communities and families at the same time.”**

*From her Nomination: “During her tenure in the legislature, she led some of the most pivotal education reforms in the state. She coauthored the state’s Teacher and Leader Evaluation System, and authored the state intra-district transfer law, allowing parents to choose the best public school within their district, regardless of zip code. She was also appointed by Former United States Secretary of Education, to a bipartisan working group to address the need to reauthorize ESEA, as well as look at the nation’s need to raise its academic standards. As a leader on the House Education Committee, she met the scholars of Ivy Prep Academy. Moved by the curiosity of the little girls and outstanding academic success at that time, Superintendent Morgan was convinced that the nearly 1.6 million students in Georgia deserved to have similar high-quality educational opportunities. She was inspired to champion the effort to create the State Charter Schools Commission, a state-level, independent charter school authorizing entity. During the highly-intense debate, her floor speech entitled “The Little Girls in Green Jackets” highlighted the inspiration the scholars sparked in her to expand public school choice opportunities for children in Georgia. She was a key sponsor of the successful constitutional amendment in 2012 that now empowers thousands of students across Georgia to access more public charter schools, including Ivy Preparatory Academy at Kirkwood.”*



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## **Faye Montgomery – Savannah, GA**



Faye Montgomery is the mother of four children, Olivia, Jackson, Josephine, and Ingrid, and wife to William Baird. When her daughter, Olivia, was killed in an accident in 2014, Faye made a promise to Olivia that she would continue fighting for disability justice in Olivia's legacy. In 2014 Faye became the Advocacy Director at The Matthew Reardon Center for Autism in Savannah, GA. The Matthew Reardon Center provides advocacy and support for families and individuals throughout the coastal Georgia region. Faye is a graduate of Partners in Policymaking, and a graduate of Social Role Valorization. Through her work at the Matthew Reardon Center she fights for disability justice and meaningful inclusion in her community.

**"I am honored and humbled to be nominated for this award. I am but ONE mother out of MANY mothers, and fathers, in Savannah who every day takes up the fight for equality and justice for our kids. I hope that we can all celebrate this hard work together."**

*From her Nomination: "She is fierce in fighting for the rights of children with disabilities and to make sure they have access to the services and support they deserve to access an educational system designed for children without disabilities. She works relentlessly to understand the law and advocate for children, chipping away at the "tyranny of low expectations". Mothers often bear the heavy burden of working with IEP teams at school and studies show that moms of disabled children suffer from the sustained burden of stress and grief. Faye is by your side and she understands because she has been there. She listens, supports, advises and in my case, talks you down from the ledge. Her generosity of spirit has saved me and made me feel like I was not alone."*

## **Keri Norris, PhD – Atlanta, GA**



Prior to coming to The FDHA she worked at the Centers for Disease Control for seven years and held positions as a health scientist, evaluator and epidemiologist. She has also served on the advisory council for the CDC's University School of Public Health Research and Medicine. She has extensive and specific experience in the areas of eliminating health disparities for vulnerable populations in the United States. She has also served as an adjunct faculty member at several institutions of higher learning such as the University of South Carolina, Agnes Scott College, Spelman College and Morehouse School of Medicine.

Dr. Norris holds a Bachelor of Arts in Africana Studies from Agnes Scott College, a Masters of Public Health in Health Administration, Management and Policy from Morehouse School of Medicine's Master of Public Health Program, and a certificate of graduate study in Gender and Women's Studies from University of South Carolina. She earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Health Promotion, Education and Behavior from the University of South Carolina. She has earned numerous awards including: induction into Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health, Outstanding Alumni Service Award - Morehouse School of Medicine (2015), Agnes Scott College (2017, Outstanding Young Alumnae), Who's Who in Black Atlanta (2017), 2018 Woman of Excellence Award.

Dr. Norris is also a motivational speaker and author. Her book "The Other Side of Thru" (pen name Payne Nickerson) focuses on the challenges of poverty, childhood sexual abuse, intimate partner violence and survival. She spends a great deal of her time as an advocate for underserved communities and performing community service. She is a board member at Good Samaritan Health Center Atlanta, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Haven of Light International. She is a 2017 graduate of Leadership DeKalb and a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She resides in Atlanta and has an adult son and a grandson.

**"I am honored to be named an Inspiring Mother of Georgia by Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies of Georgia. This award is humbling because I am truly doing what I sincerely love and that's advocating for others, serving communities and working towards equity for all."**

From her Nomination: *"She is unique because she brings her own experiences into her work and community service. This personal connection makes her passionate about her work with domestic violence survivors and those in underserved communities. Despite having such a demanding career, she finds time to continue her work in the communities that need her most."*

## **Limia Obadi – Duluth, GA**



Limia Obadi is the Domestic Violence Program Director at Tapestri, Inc. She first began working with Tapestri as a volunteer in March 2009, but has been in her current position since February 2010. She is also the only staff in the organization that is a DOJ Accredited Representative, she helps survivors with Immigration petitions. As the Program Director, she manages program coordinators and conducts multicultural training programs for court personnel, law enforcement and immigrant communities. She works to establish collaborative relationships with keys members of the immigrant communities in order to facilitate victim access to available resources. She speaks Amharic and Arabic. Ms. Obadi has a Bachelor's of Art in Sociology and a Masters in Public Administration with concentration on non-profit management from Kennesaw State University. She has two kids and enjoys spending time with her family.

**"I am grateful for this award. I am driven every day to help families get to a better place because everyone deserves to live a safe and healthy life. Our home should be our safe haven."**

*From her Nomination: "She does not let being the mother of young children stop her from having a profound impact on the lives of immigrant survivors of domestic violence. Her passion for safe, healthy families is evident in everything that she does, at home or the office. She is responsible for the design and delivery of services that Tapestri provides to foreign-born domestic violence survivors, most of whom are women. All working mothers face challenges: she overcomes particular challenges as a victim advocate. While Tapestri aims to maintain a healthy workplace, this is emotionally heavy work. There are moments to be serious in victim advocacy work, but it is also important to celebrate your colleagues and find joy, and she certainly does."*

## **Petrice Wilson –Waynesboro, GA**



Petrice Wilson was born and raised in Waynesboro, GA, to Robert and Rosa Wilson. Petrice is a 2003 alumni of Burke County High School and a 2005 graduate of Augusta Technical College, where she studied Business and Cosmetology. She is working towards obtaining her Bachelor's degree in Psychology with Troy University. Petrice is an inspiring mother to many and the mother to the late Aaron Wilson, whom gained his wings on October 4, 2017. She is also the founder of The Miraculous Blossom. The Miraculous Blossom gets its name from her son Aaron. In the bible Aaron was remembered for his Miraculous Blossom of his staff and rod. She started the Miraculous Blossom in 2014 to assist parents blossom and know that "a disability is just a perspective". Alongside of being a great mother, Petrice wears many hats. Just to name a few she is an advocate for women and babies, a motivational speaker, a Parent to Parent Navigational team leader, a

Board member of the Georgia Easter Seals and now an awardee for the 2018 Inspiring Mothers of Georgia Award.

Like an eagle, Petrice demonstrates strength, tenacity, and the courage to look ahead. She has shown how life is about falling, and living is about getting back up.

**"I am nothing without God. Receiving such a distinguished award is a gratifying honor with immeasurable humbleness. The more humble we stay the more God Blesses us."**

*From her Nomination: "She became pregnant at the age of seventeen and gave birth prematurely at twenty-nine weeks. At the age of three, her son was diagnosed with quadriplegic cerebral palsy, which is a lack of oxygen to the brain and is caused by damage to the motor control centers of the developing brain. While dealing with his diagnosis, she juggled school, work, and therapy appointments for her son. She eventually graduated college and began her career, until he began experiencing cluster seizures and muscle spasms. These life-changing events caused them to spend a great deal of time in and out of the hospital and doctor's office. Their visits caught the eye of an amazing nurse, whom later invited her out to speak at an event hosted by Enterprise Community Healthy Start Program. "*