



PEDIATRICIAN

MEET **LORENE MCDONALD RUTHERFORD, MD**, FSHS CLASS OF 1976,
HUMANITARIAN AND MENTOR.

Lorene McDonald Rutherford, MD

Dr. Lorene Rutherford's teachers would tell you that her success is due to the fact that she was incredibly inquisitive, open to new people and ideas, believed strongly in learning from others, laughed easily, and shared her smile often. Dr. Rutherford would tell you that her success stems from wonderful teachers, mentors, and support from those who cared about her. Both appear to be accurate.

After starting her education in a number of different elementary schools, her family settled in Faribault when Lorene was in eighth grade. Her love of learning and numerous interests allowed her to try many different experiences and eventually led her to attend Carleton College. She majored in biology with a psychology concentration. Her life's ambition was to become a pediatrician, so she took all the courses she needed to apply for medical school. She also worked at the Faribault State Hospital with children with Down Syndrome, Laura Baker School with special needs children, and other child-centered organizations. While at Carleton, she played volleyball and was team captain for two years. As president of the Women's Intercollegiate Athletic Association at Carleton, she was able to develop her leadership skills with the support of a wonderful woman mentor.

After college, Dr. Rutherford spent three years doing research at New York University Medical Center. From there, she spent one year of medical school at the University of Minnesota, transferred to the University of Chicago for two years, took a one year leave of absence to live in Japan, then returned to Chicago to finish medical school. She moved to the Baltimore/Washington area to do her pediatric residency and then spent two years working in Chicago. She moved to London where she worked in the National Health Service teaching medical students and residents and doing clinics for special needs children. In 1996, she

returned to Minnesota where she initially worked for a pediatric group before joining a multi-specialty group where she has been a partner for 20 years.

Currently, she teaches medical students and residents from the University of Minnesota Medical School and pediatric residency programs and teaches nurse practitioner and physician assistant students. She sees hospital and outpatients clinically and serves a variety of administrative roles. She has been Chief of Staff, head of the hospital Executive Committee, and worked on Quality Improvement, continuing medical education, infection control, and ethics committees over the years. She is currently on the Board of Directors at the clinic and previously served as Medical Director. Dr. Rutherford speaks on pediatric topics to community groups, school nurses, school groups, and hospital staff. Dr. Rutherford has been honored to be named a "Top Doctor" in the Twin Cities for several years.

Keeping with her belief in the influence teachers and mentors have in our lives, Dr. Rutherford has given both her time and knowledge to mentor and teach others. She has been involved in mentoring students in four local high schools who are interested in health careers, and has been on a number of charity boards. They include the Cameron Kravitt Foundation where she helped develop the Death and Bereavement Seminar that prepares pediatricians in the art of sharing bad news with sensitivity and teaches self-care strategies to avoid burnout. Dr. Rutherford travels yearly to The Light of Hope Home and School for Girls in Kenya, which rescues girls from dire situations and provides medical care to students.

Dr. Rutherford is truly dedicated to helping children in numerous situations and imparting her wisdom to others who share her passion and willingness to make a difference.