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When I think of leadership roles, I think of the heroes I've known.

At 19 years old, I became the mother of a child with special health care needs. He was born with biliary atresia which was still considered a terminal liver disease at the time. That was how I was introduced to my first heroes in nursing, through those who took care of and taught me how to take care of my son on the research unit at the University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver, CO.

What brought me to seek out nurse-midwifery was a very disappointing birth experience with my second child. Thus, I found Mary Breckenridge's story, the public health nurse who brought nurse-midwifery to the United States. She became my MCH hero. After practicing as a high risk obstetrical nurse for six years, I had completed her midwifery school and practiced as a Certified Nurse-Midwife and Women's Healthcare Nurse-Practitioner for eight years. I also taught nursing school, graduate, and post-graduate education programs along the way, as that was a part of that common passion Mary Breckenridge and I share.

After my fourth child (and first daughter) was born, I retired from midwifery and continued in that career-long path of teaching until I found my current position with Children's Special Health at the State of Wyoming Department of Health. Life has led to a full circle... I am now helping children like those nurses who helped my son, Craig—who by the way had a liver transplant and is now a 24 year old certified pharmacy technician and college student studying to be a pharmacist. And, of course, he will always be one of my biggest heroes.