

## **Laurie Cimino**

Laurie Cimino is a great friend to families! She has served families of Watauga County through nutritional assessment and support at the Health Department since 1993.

I have known Laurie since 2000, when I started having prenatals at the Health Department with my firstborn. I was impressed then at her friendliness and upbeatness, and now—eight years later, I am inspired by her continued energetic attitude that greets me every time I see her in her office (every three months!).

I gave birth to twins this summer. Because of their prematurity, they spent the first five weeks in the hospital, and I am supplementing their breast milk diet with formula. On a Friday I had completely run out of formula—the special formula the twins had been given in the hospital. After talking with Laurie about the situation and what I thought was needed, she made a special order of 16 cases of this “preemie” formula—at 4:30 pm. She made the phone calls efficiently, without missing a beat, and never stopped smiling. She was even able to make her 5:10 bus connection to go home! The WIC office called me the following Tuesday to let me know the order had come in, and again, I was impressed with their efficiency.

Through the years, Laurie has sat down with countless families, mine included, and talked at length about nutrition and diets, growth, and how our families can attain and manage good health. She is a great help to mothers that want to take responsibility for the health and well being of their children. I consider Laurie Cimino a great friend to families.

--Leigh Reid