

Genome readers honor genetic counselors who interpret complexity with compassion.

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## Deanna Leingang One of a Kind

**Deanna Leingang** 

MS, CGC

Nominated by Heidi Dietrich

Photographs by Dan Koeck

## Deanna Leingang by Heidi Dietrich

**We first met Deanna** at an appointment for my son, Declan, who was having leg pain. At the appointment, they discovered he had a very high creatine kinase level, which resulted in testing for a mutation in his DMD gene. The results were positive, and we were obviously devastated.

Deanna has been the most helpful, by far, of all the healthcare providers whom we have met during this process. Her thorough research on Declan's specific mutation has helped us understand his condition.

She has also given us so much hope. Deanna provided us with a ton of publications and documents so that we could continue researching Declan's mutation and condition. She has visited with me many, many times to help walk me through the genetic information.

I cannot express enough how much of an impact she has made on our lives. To this day, we have not spoken with the referring doctor regarding Declan's condition. On the other hand, Deanna has always returned my calls promptly and has patiently explained to me (repeatedly) all the ins and outs of his disease.

Our story is very recent and is still ongoing. My family is continuing to have testing done. I am so thankful that Deanna is the genetic counselor guiding us on this path of discovery. I could not imagine a better person to be involved with my life and this process. I am so thankful for Deanna. She is one of a kind.



L TO R: DEANNA, HEIDI