



Stephanie Neurohr is releasing a comprehensive breastfeeding video.

A Mother's Passion

She makes a difference by helping mothers and babies become stronger and healthier.

Rita Sakajian

Former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader, published author, filmmaker, wife, mother of seven, and, most recently, founder and CEO of Mother of 7 Inc. All this is rolled into one 5-foot-3 inch 45-year-old stunning blond beauty named Stephanie Scholz Neurohr.

"I am a career woman who fell in love with motherhood after my first born," she said lovingly. She also proudly admits that she has no nanny and does her own carpooling!

"I came to Maui in 1981 on my honeymoon," said Neurohr, "and fell in love with it. It's the most beautiful, majestic island in the world." She has been back several times since but most recently flew to Maui with her husband, second-oldest daughter, Noelle, and youngest daughter, Autumn, to put the finishing touches on a series of *Mother of 7* birth and breastfeeding videos, subjects

nearest and dearest to her heart.

Neurohr has been married to Dr. Hunt Neurohr, a world-renowned plastic surgeon, for 24 years. She resides in Dallas, Texas, with her husband and seven children: Tiffany, 18; Noelle, 16; Capri, 14; Hunt, 10; twin boys Brett and Brock, 8; and Autumn, 5.

"Maui's diverse cultures and landscapes were a perfect backdrop for wrapping up my *Mother of 7* series videos. A unique and intimate networking system of doulas (assistants), midwives, childbirth educators, expectant and breastfeeding families organized on-camera interviews, as well as footage of natural motherhood moments," she said.

Neurohr commented that there are hundreds of books on childbirth and breastfeeding but few comprehensive videos that have gone into the depth that encompasses this project which she calls "a labor of love."

Her desire to create an educational birth and breastfeeding series began

with her 10th pregnancy and second set of twins. Unexpectedly, the pregnancy began to unravel with the miscarriage of one twin late in the second trimester. The remaining twin, Autumn, was born with life-threatening birth defects called tracheo-esophageal fistula and esophageal atresia, in which the upper part of the esophagus forms a pouch in the neck and the lower part of the esophagus goes into the trachea. Autumn's left vocal cord was also paralyzed, further jeopardizing her life.

Just 17 hours old, Autumn underwent surgery to reconnect the esophagus. The operation was successful, but silent aspiration from the paralyzed vocal cord held the threat of possible pneumonia and death.

Neurohr was forbidden to breast-feed, so she pumped milk around the clock, tube-feeding the baby to sustain her life.

At four months of age, Autumn's swallow study showed great improvement. The doctor agreed to give her a carefully monitored



The Neurohr family: Stephanie and Hunt with Tiffany, Noelle, Capri, Hunt, twin boys Brett and Brock, and Autumn.

run of breast-feeding, knowing that mother's milk provides optimal nutrition and nurturing for a child.

"Over the next two years, Autumn slowly learned how to take a full breast-feed. Today, she is a joyous, healthy 5-year-old!" she exclaimed.

Neurohr documented the baby's first two years of life in a highly acclaimed film that she wrote, directed, and produced. Titled *Autumn's Story*, it was aired in February 2002 on the Discovery Health Channel.

"I strongly believe that there's a natural continuance from birth to breast-feeding," she said.

According to Neurohr, mother's milk contains live antibodies, resulting in fewer illnesses for the baby. Many diseases and cancers are greatly reduced when the mother nurses.

"Through my own personal experiences of giving birth, I have discovered that breast-fed babies don't cry as much," said Neurohr.

Neurohr and her associate producer Andrea Menendez, did extensive research for this project. Research included an interview with Randa Saadeh, a scientist and director of the World Health Organization, who flew all the way from Switzerland to Dallas for an interview. Saadeh says Neurohr is "a mother making a difference."

Neurohr is also working closely with UNICEF, a sister organization of WHO which is under the umbrella of the United Nations. These organizations support her vision and may assist in distributing the videos "globally."

"I am very proud of Stephanie," said Dr. Neu-

rohr. "I feel that anything comprehensive is almost too large of an undertaking before it begins, but once this project is completed, it will help mothers and babies become stronger and healthier."

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those on Maui who gave me their love and support for helping me pull this project together," Neurohr said.

"When I got to the airport, I noticed a brilliant double rainbow. Maui truly is paradise in the most perfect way," she said.

Mother of 7 Breast-feeding Comprehensive and Breast-feeding Techniques are the first of two breastfeeding videos and will be on the market later this year. For more information on the Web: www.breastfeedingvideo.com and www.motherof7.com. ✨