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Success story

# Behind the scenes: Anna Shaw Children's Institute

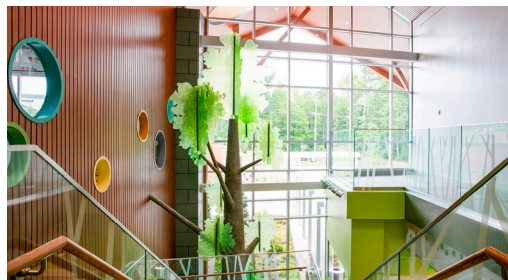
## Give me an overview of the project and space.

Dedicated to the memory of Anna Sue Shaw, Anna Shaw Children's Institute is a leader of care for children who experience the challenges of developmental delays. The Institute is built in the style of a treehouse with every detail designed to provide an inviting, comfortable place. Children and families are able to receive diagnoses, treatment, therapy services, and support all under one roof. clinical areas.

## What was the design vision for the space and why?

The architectural and design team wanted the center to look whimsical, fun, and natural—a space that looked less like a medical facility and more like a playground.

*"We wanted to look like it was always here in northwest Georgia - so we incorporated lots of natural light and glass. Exam rooms and treatment rooms all have natural light and beautiful views of nature." - Terri Woodruff, MS, APRN, CPNP-PC, and Executive Director of ASCI*



*"It has been amazing to see the end results of what we've done. Parents can't find the words to show their gratitude because these changes impact their livelihood, the child's independence, and their whole future."*

- Terri Woodruff, MS, APRN, CPNP-PC, and Executive Director of ASCI



**Architectural firm** ESarch

**Location** Dalton, Georgia

**Size** 54,000 sf

## Recognitions

Healthcare Design Award of Merit (highest honor)

IIDA Healthcare Design Awards - Ambulatory/Pediatric Category

Healthcare Facilities Symposium Distinction Awards - User - Centered Award

*"Our therapy is not just about treating children. It's about taking the time to work with families, too."*

- Laurie McGee  
PT, DPT, C/NDT

## How was design used to improve care?

In designing healthcare environments, small changes can make a big difference in comfort and quality of care. Terri Woodruff, pediatric nurse practitioner, knew this, so the team started the design process by assembling an advisory council of 20 parents of local children with developmental delays. Then, they followed up by visiting other children's hospitals to learn best practices and aspirations for their own care center.

*"The most important part of designing effective healthcare facilities is including real people who will use the space." - Terri Woodruff, MS, APRN, CPNP-PC, and Executive Director of ASCI*

Some of the design details that the team implemented included: an aquatic care facility, muted colors to calm children, and patterned carpet that both intrigues kids and provides intuitive wayfinding. Details like these make children feel more comfortable and excited to come to the facility, and support parents by ensuring the highest quality care.

*"The CEO of Hamilton Health empowered us to fully dive into caregiving, saying: 'Be aware of research, but focus on care, because this is a care center.'" - Terri Woodruff, MS, APRN, CPNP-PC, and Executive Director of ASCI*



## How did the new space impact guests/employees/patients after completion?

This space truly changes lives. Parents and kids alike are met with shock and awe at progress and opportunities that they hadn't considered—all because caregivers at Anna Shaw Children's Institute primarily focus on what these children can do if given proper treatment.

*"I love that our team looks at what a child can do. They talk about their strengths, or about how the family can make simple accommodations to make the child feel successful. They do discuss challenges, but focus on the positives." - Terri Woodruff, MS, APRN, CPNP-PC, and Executive Director of ASCI*

*"Parents are so grateful because their world changes from chaos to peace and freedom. Kids are suddenly able to participate in school, to communicate effectively, and enjoy life. Small changes completely affect the quality of life for both the kids and their parents." - Terri Woodruff, MS, APRN, CPNP-PC, and Executive Director of ASCI*

**"We have lots of hopes and dreams for this place. The biggest is to continue to help children and families realize that life is a journey and that we can help them on their journey. To learn how important it is to celebrate the little things in life and to never take anything for granted."**

- Terri Woodruff  
MS, APRN, CPNP-PC, and  
Executive Director of ASCI



**Rep testimonial** Lisa Hoffman

*"This has to have been one of the most inspiring projects that I have worked on in my career. The attention to detail at every level that was given was incredible. Terri, her staff, and the design firm were absolutely amazing to work with and their dedication to the facility and the children they serve is evident in everything that they do. I was honored to be a part of this and something I will always hold very dear to my heart."*