Betty Moore was born in Los Gatos, California. At the age of two, her father passed away and she and her mother joined Betty’s grandparents at their Los Gatos area fruit ranch. Betty attended Campbell Elementary School and Los Gatos High School, then went on to receive her B.A. in Journalism from San Jose College.

Betty worked for the U.S. Rubber Company in San Francisco until her marriage to Gordon in 1950. Soon after they were married, the young couple moved to Pasadena where Gordon attended graduate school at the California Institute of Technology. While in Pasadena, she worked briefly for Consolidated Engineering Corporation in advertising and public relations, then shortly after joined the Ford Foundation.

In September 2000, the couple established the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, which fosters path-breaking scientific discovery, environmental conservation, improvements in patient care and preservation of the special character of the San Francisco Bay Area. Passionate about improving the quality of health care, it was Betty’s vision and leadership that led the foundation to approve the Betty Irene Moore Nursing Initiative in 2003. The intended outcome of the nursing initiative is to improve nursing-related patient outcomes of adult acute care hospitals in the San Francisco Bay Area and Greater Sacramento.

Betty served on the board of El Camino Hospital in Mountain View and volunteered at the Palo Alto Senior Day Care Center. She also served as a member of the Governing Board of Filoli, a historic house and garden near Woodside, CA that is part of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and served on its Fine Arts Committee.