



Mission, Vision and Values

As the first free-standing pediatric palliative care center in the United States, George Mark Children's House offers comprehensive, compassionate, life-affirming care to children facing a life-limiting diagnosis. Services are available to medically eligible families regardless of ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, or socio-economic status.

Our mission:

Our mission is to provide the highest quality of care and to minimize discomfort by addressing the physical, emotional, spiritual and psychosocial needs of the entire family. We strive to achieve the best quality of life possible from the moment of admission through strong collaboration between families and our interdisciplinary team.

Our vision:

Our vision is to be the center of excellence in pediatric palliative care and to make a difference in the lives of children with a life-limiting diagnosis and their families. We increase access to care by advocating for pediatric palliative care benefits, and by serving as a model to other communities.

Our values:

1. **LIFE IS FOR LIVING:** We believe that each child's life is special, sacred and complete. We focus on helping children live each day with dignity, freedom from pain and anxiety, while providing comfort, love and compassion through our unique model of care.
2. **A UNIVERSAL RIGHT TO CARE:** We provide our services to all children and their families regardless of ethnicity, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, or socio-economic status.
3. **FAMILY-CENTERED CARE:** We treat the whole family – child, parents, sibling and extended family – to help them fulfill their physical, psychological, social and spiritual goals consistent with their personal, cultural and spiritual values.
4. **OPEN AND HONEST COMMUNICATION:** Every child and family has the right to participate in an information discussion regarding the care options available and to choose the most appropriate care based on all information available.
5. **A CULTURE OF SERVICE:** We customize care plans based on the unique needs of each child and family.
6. **DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION:** By creating and maintaining diversity in the care team, we are sensitive to and honor the diversity of our patients, their families, and our community. We acknowledge that disparities and inequities in our health care system adversely affect marginalized populations and are here to support a more just, equitable, and inclusive culture and system for all. In addition, we strive to create an inclusive environment in which all employees, volunteers, and others feel welcome and can thrive.
7. **CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT:** We continually strive to improve what we do through a commitment to evidence-based care, research and education that informs best practices for pediatric palliative care.
8. **COOPERATIVE PARTNERSHIPS:** We value working together with our partner organizations in the community, region, state, and around the world to develop a network of care that collectively meets the needs of children facing life-limiting conditions and their families.
9. **CONTINUUM OF CARE:** We will support the family from the time of the child's diagnosis, through death and bereavement, for as long as the family needs us.