



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 and young adults facing a potentially 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 addressing the physical, emotional, spiritual and psychosocial needs of the entire family. In doing so, we strive to achieve the best quality of life possible from the moment of admission onward through strong collaboration between families and our interdisciplinary team.

Our vision:

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

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 the care we furnish.
2. **A UNIVERSAL RIGHT TO CARE:** We provide our services to all children and their families regardless of ethnicity, gender identity, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, or the ability to pay.
3. **FAMILY-CENTERED CARE:** We treat the whole family – child, parents, sibling's, 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:** Our culture of service dictates that we are responsive and flexible to each child and family's need for our care and support.
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 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 families, young adults and children facing potentially life limiting and quality of life issues.
9. **CARE IS NOT TIME-LIMITED:** 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.