



Local Fund-raisers Top \$100,000 to Help Georgia's Medically Fragile Children

Flurry of post-tax season fund raising events benefit Dream House.

May 20, 2008 (Snellville, Ga.) – Friends of Dream House for Medically Fragile Children helped raise more than \$114,000 in recent weeks via six local fund-raisers. From a community garage sale, art show, golf tournament and women's club endeavors, to a family dirt bike event and nationally-televised hot rod contest and gala, support has come from all ages representing every walk of life. Monies raised for Dream House will directly benefit the organization's *Family for Keeps*[™] Transition Care program to help keep Georgia's medically fragile children at home with their families.

Commenting on the incredible outpouring of recent community support, Dream House Development Manager Kim Marks said, "At a time when overall charitable giving is down, Dream House is blessed with loyal friends – both old and new – who feel as strongly as we do that medically fragile children deserve a quality life." Marks continued, "Dream House is instigating positive change in the pediatric home health care landscape."

This shift is evidenced by Dream House Founder and CEO Laura Moore's honor as a 2008 Health Care Innovator finalist for the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Health Care Heroes Award. Her advocacy efforts for medically fragile children have garnered attention from the American Academy of Pediatrics, so much so that she is being considered as a speaker for the organization's 2010 national convention in Washington, D.C.

Closer to home, others with a heart for children's causes have stepped up to make a difference for the Dream House mission throughout April and May.

Medical gas provider **LifeGas** adopted a Dream House family living in Chatham County, Ga. Sponsoring a corporate garage sale April 19, LifeGas employees raised money to help pay for a handicap-accessible van suitable for transporting the family's son, a 19-year-old with cerebral palsy. Via the *Family for Keeps*[™] Bridging the Gap Program, Dream House assists families in obtaining the home modifications, durable medical equipment, therapies, and other health care supplies necessary to provide safe and effective care for medically fragile children in the home environment.

April 25 in Norcross, more than 100 student artists at the **Wesleyan Lower School** proudly added their special touch to the original composition *Helping Hands Make Giving Hearts*. The three-foot square canvas raised \$6,000 from a silent auction held in conjunction with the recent Wesleyan Artist Market. These funds represent the kick-off of the *2008 Kids Helping Kids* campaign to retire the mortgage on the Dream House Lilburn Transition Care Home. This special house the metro-Atlanta community helped build five years ago, provides temporary, family-centered residential care for medically fragile children while their own family members and homes are prepared to care for them. ***Event photos available upon request.***

ProcareRX and **Gotham City Racing** hosted a benefit gala dinner April 26 for Dream House at Chateau Elan. The dinner coincided with the Summit Racing Equipment



NHRA Southern Nationals that took place at Atlanta Motor Speedway. To commemorate the event, NHRA driver Melanie Troxel drove the Dream House Hot Rod. She and fellow team mate and NHRA driver Frank Hawley encouraged the gala guests to open their hearts and wallets after hearing the Dream House story. The evening's events, which included dinner plus a silent and live auction, raised \$61,500 via the **Burgess Charities Foundation** to help Georgia's medically fragile children. *Event photos available upon request.*

Avid off-road motorcycle and ATV riders gathered May 4 in Washington, Ga. at Aonia Pass Off-Road Fun Park for the fifth annual Family Fun Trail Ride to benefit Dream House. Presenting sponsors **Yamaha Motor Corporation** and **Southeastern Enduro & Trail Riders Association** made this event possible. More than 200 volunteers and riders, some as young as age six, raised over \$22,000 to support direct care costs for medically fragile children at the Lilburn Transition Care Home. *Event photos available upon request.*

The 77 golfers, teeing off at Stone Mountain Park's Lakemont Course May 6 for the Fifth Annual Dream House Golf Classic, enjoyed awesome weather. Presenting sponsor **MD&E**, along with 22 other corporate sponsors, helped raise more than \$23,000 to support the Dream House *Family for Keeps*[™] Program. *Event photos available upon request.*

At its May 15 meeting and luncheon, the **Dunwoody Women's Club** made a donation to Dream House that has provided resources for printers and equipment to network the Lilburn Transition Care Home computers with the Dream House corporate office. These dedicated ladies are long-time supporters and continue to show their dedication to Dream House via local fundraising activities.

To learn more about ways to get involved with Dream House programs, services, or for volunteer and event opportunities, visit us online at www.dreamhouseforkids.org or call today 770-717-7410.

About Dream House:

Dream House for Medically Fragile Children, Inc. is a diligent advocate for a little known population in Georgia – medically fragile children. Their numbers are growing exponentially due to life-saving medical advances made in the last decade that now allow these children to survive. Dream House offers unique programs and services that enable families to care for these children in their own homes. This gives children with complicated health care conditions a chance to be part of a loving home where they are valued and cared for effectively. Dream House is a state-wide resource that empowers communities to help keep these families together.

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A 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Dream House for Medically Fragile Children, Inc. obtains all resources from donations, grants and fund raising activities. Unlike any other in the United States, the Dream House *Family for Keeps*[™] transition model of care, education programs and services has piqued interest among constituents in eight other states, and has the potential for meeting the specialized health care needs of other niche populations in our society such as wounded war veterans and aging seniors. Since 2001, Dream House has served over 800 family members caring for more than 795 medically fragile children in 37 of 159 Georgia counties. Dream House aims to improve the quality of life for these children and their families, dramatically reduce the number of medically fragile children in foster care, and in doing so, save the State of Georgia, its tax payers and healthcare institutions millions of dollars each year.

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