



A home. A family. A future.

A Worthy Mission

Dream House increases the number of families and communities prepared to care for medically fragile children at home by:

1 Providing them safe, temporary homes;

2 Training families and caregivers;

3 Preparing specially-equipped and accessible homes;

4 Championing positive change via community and corporate partnerships.

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www.dreamhouseforkids.org

The Silver Lining

A Printed Publication of Dream House for Medically Fragile Children, Inc.

Volume 9: April 2010

From Our Family to Yours...

Do you ever wonder if what you do for Dream House really matters? YES, it does! Angel Oliver's mom wants you to know how your support has changed the course of their lives.

From Crisis to Empowerment

Angel had meningitis as an infant, leaving her medically fragile. Now 10-years-old, she has cerebral palsy, profound mental retardation, cortical blindness, seizure disorder, receives G-tube feedings and requires total care...24/7/365.

Her mom, Yvonne, received a referral to Dream House from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston. A self-employed single mother of four with health issues of her own, Yvonne's situation had suddenly turned desperate. She called Dream House seeking respite care for her daughter two weeks before Angel's scheduled spinal surgery. Yvonne needed help caring for Angel so she could devote time to resolving her crisis. Dream House welcomed Angel to the *Family for Keeps*® Transition Care Home (TCH) in Lilburn courtesy of a respite care grant from Jackson EMC Operation Round-Up®.

After surgery, Angel returned to the TCH for transition care, courtesy of donations from generous Dream House supporters. "Dream House was my first point of relief," said Yvonne. "They made it possible for me to get to the next step. This very caring and supportive team gave me time and they gave me options." Dream House volunteers helped Yvonne move into a new home. She has now found a new job. Angel is blossoming and will soon return home. With assistance from community friends, the Dream House *Family for Keeps*® Bridging the Gap (BTG) program is helping Yvonne explore home accessibility solutions. Yvonne also commented that, "The Dream House staff clearly love Angel. Everything I could possibly need for Angel has been taken care of."

Why Your Help Matters

Today in Georgia, limited programs and services exist to meet the care requirements for children with extraordinarily complex health issues. Fortunately, Dream House is authorized to serve Georgia's foster children, as well as biological and adopted children, under the first and only *Children's Transition Care Centers* license in Georgia. *This new license is not yet widely recognized.* As a result, Dream House continues working diligently to finalize provider contracts with Medicaid, care management organizations and private insurance companies.

However, as Yvonne's situation demonstrates, with appropriate intervention and access to resources, parents are able to "take charge" of their circumstances and get back on the right track. Too many families, trying to care for their medically fragile children at home, break apart from the emotional, physical and financial pressures of "going it alone."

Dream House has an audacious 2010 goal of serving 317 medically fragile children, like Angel, and their families. On average, Dream House needs financial donations of \$2,500 per child we serve. Depending on the scope of each child's need, that financial support may be higher or lower. We can only serve children when funding is available. Our patent-pending *Family for Keeps*® Transition Model of Care programs provide new pathways for medically fragile children like Angel with access to: transition care, education and training for their families and caregivers, home accessibility assistance, and advocacy. The result? Families and communities are empowered to care for their medically fragile children at home!



ANGEL OLIVER WELCOMES SPRING

Honor Roll of Donors

Financial gifts by donor received January 1 through March 31, 2010

Every effort has been made to accurately reflect financial donations received during this time period. Please contact us if there is an error and we will reflect the correction in the next issue.

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Levy, Calah
Love, Sarah
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These Volunteers logged more than 372 Hours from January through March

Almand, Ben	Jamison, Corey
Almand, Phillip	Johnson, Cheryl
Arledge, Erica	Jones, Jerrianne
Armand, Celeste	Lamb, John
Borger, Kelly	Levy, Calah
Borger, Kyle	McReynolds, Mary
Breon, Ryan	Middleton, Richard
Breon, Stan	Middleton, Ryan
Breon, Stephanie	Miller, Brett
Campbell, Danielle	Mobley, Michelle
Campbell, Jeremy	Neulan, Faith
Casalaspro, Tabatha	Patel, Dixitbhai
Clotfelter, Mike	Peters, Doug
Coley, Melissa	Pogue III, Walter E
DeBach, Lori	Portell, Dustin R.
Digby, Heather	Rault, Molly
Dziwura, Cindy	Silvers, Joshua
Dziwura, John	Slaton, Phillip
Dziwura, Kinsey	Taylor, Carl
Dziwura, Quinn	Te, Samantha
Forlaw, Benjamin	Thorn, Mary
Forlaw, Danielle	Tuttle, Cindy
Graves, Bill	Vagasi, Alexandra
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April 6, 2010

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