



MISSION STATEMENT To increase the number of families and communities prepared to care for medically fragile children by:

1. Providing educational programs and unique teaching environments for families and care givers
2. Assisting in the development of specially equipped and accessible homes.
3. Increasing community awareness about the lives and needs of medically fragile children.
4. Creating opportunities for community and corporate partnerships focused on improving the quality of life for medically fragile children and their families.

DREAM HOUSE PROGRAMS Dream House continues to fulfill its mission through the following programs and services which have supported more than 820 families caring for over 830 medically fragile children in 37 of 159 Georgia counties since 2001 via:

Education and Training Programs

- **Family for Keeps™ Education Program** – Georgia’s first comprehensive community-based, health care-focused, family-centered training for caretakers of medically fragile children.
- **Skills Lab Training** – A center-based lab experience to assist care givers in developing a working ability to perform basic care techniques and utilize routine health care equipment.
- **Community Education Programs** which include:
 - Individualized training for families to support individualized care for child they will welcome into their homes.
 - Specialized In-services, Workshops and Conference Presentations, upon request for niche audiences (child care centers, parent groups, case managers and other service providers), to impart details on the current care techniques, medications, therapies and equipment for medically fragile children.
 - Speakers and Presentations raising awareness about the Dream House mission, programs and related services, offered in a variety of presentation formats, suitable for any group size.
 - Network and mentor opportunities for family members, care givers and community supporters.

Dream House Bridging the Gap Program facilitates efforts of service providers in Georgia to improve access and utilization of existing resources for families caring for children with special health care needs. Specifically, Dream House supports families by providing for and coordinating the acquisition of:

- Durable medical equipment and supplies provided for medically fragile children.
- Home modifications to accommodate unique accessibility needs for medically fragile children.
- Special camps, family activities and support groups for medically fragile children and their families.
- Referrals for respite and health care services.

Dream House Transition Care Program offers a ‘hospital-to-home’ temporary, family-centered residential care program for medically fragile children while their own family members and homes are prepared to care for them. Service offerings include: Certified Life Care Planning (CLCP), care coordination, activities of daily living, home health care, as well as respite care (in-home and out-of-home, day time and over-night).

Dream House Advocacy Program raises awareness for the presence of medically fragile children, identifies their un-met needs, and creates solutions that address these needs. Advocacy outcomes for medically fragile children include:

- A unified voice for Georgia’s estimated 6,000+ medically fragile pediatric population.
- Increased educational opportunities addressing the life-care needs of medically fragile children.
- Public demographic identification of Georgia’s medically fragile children and their conditions.
- Private and public-sector collaboration generating creative solutions to meet the unique needs of medically fragile children, their families and communities.
- Architect for critical success factors impacting medically fragile children:
 - Universal definition of a medically fragile child, and establishment of state-wide service providers and agencies who meet regularly to develop referrals, programs and related services.
 - Strategic initiatives to guide program/service growth requirements to reduce foster care placements.
 - Revised state licensure standards to allow for the programs and services necessary to support the home care needs of medically fragile children.



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