



August 1st, 2006

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Dream House Board and Staff as well as the children and families we serve, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for you and so many others in our community, for all you have done to support the Moore Family, the foster children we have cared for, the Miller Road property, and the Dream House organization and mission.

It is because of this wonderfully supportive community that we have been so very successful in accomplishing the Dream House mission. Because we have been so successful, we are now in the process of investigating ways to duplicate our model in other counties and expand our service provision throughout the state of Georgia! The Dream House Purpose, Mission and Vision are:

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

To increase opportunities for medically fragile children to live in a stable, permanent home environment through the development of support resources and programs which increase the number of families and communities prepared to care for them.

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 & corporate partnerships focused on improving the quality of life for medically fragile children and their families.

VISION STATEMENT:

To dramatically reduce the number of medically fragile children in foster care, improve the quality of life for these children and their families, and save the State of Georgia, the tax payers, and healthcare institutions millions of dollars each year.

Dream House continues to fulfill its mission through the following programs and services for medically fragile children and those who care for them:

Dream House 'Learning for Life' Education Programs:

- **'Family for Keeps 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 comfortable, working ability to perform basic care techniques and utilize routine healthcare equipment.
- **'Community Education Program'**- includes:
 - Individual training for families- to support individualized care of the child they will welcome into their home
 - Inservices and Workshops- specialized training sessions are provided upon request for child care centers, parent groups, case managers and other service providers for up to date information on the latest care techniques, medications, therapy & equipment.
 - Speakers & Presentations- for more information about any of the Dream House programs and services, speakers are available to explain the details of our mission, vision and service offerings in a variety of presentation formats for any sized group.

Dream House 'Bridging the Gap' Program: Dream House staff facilitate the efforts of service providers in the Metro Atlanta area 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 special needs children, such as wheelchair ramps, widened doorways, and handicap accessible bathrooms

- Special camps, family activities, support groups for medically fragile children and their families
- Referrals to respite and health care services

Service offerings also provide on-going support and education through:

- Conferences focusing on solutions to current issues facing medically fragile children and their families
- A repository of information and linkage to resource opportunities
- Networking and mentoring opportunities for family members, care givers and community supporters

Dream House Advocacy Program: Tremendous time, resources, and efforts have been expended to develop relationships with community leaders, public and private social service providers, child welfare agencies, and government officials in order to raise awareness of the presence of medically fragile children, identify their unmet needs, and create potential solutions to address these needs.

Advocacy Outcomes Achieved to Date:

1. A unified voice for approximately 6,000 medically fragile children in Georgia.
2. Increased educational opportunities for the general public, service providers, government officials, child welfare agencies regarding medically fragile children and their needs.
3. Investigative activities and communication processes to publicly identify the number, location and condition of medically fragile children in the state of Georgia.
4. Community and corporate collaboration for the purpose of generating creative solutions to meet the unique needs of medically fragile children, their families and communities.
5. Leadership in creating a universal definition of a medically fragile child and establishing a state-wide group of service providers and agencies who meet regularly to foster the development of referrals, programs, and services for medically fragile children and their families
6. Structure and coordination of efforts in the development of a strategic plan that will anticipate future needs, and guide program/service growth to reduce the number of medically fragile children placed in foster care due to lack of supportive home care resources.
7. Leadership in revising state licensure standards for Child Caring Institutions to allow for more agencies to develop programs and services to benefit medically fragile children and the families and communities who care for them.

And coming soon! The **Dream House Resource Center, Conyers, Georgia**

Plans are currently underway (the site is cleared and the water, sewer and electrical lines are now being installed!) to build a state-wide resource center to serve children and families from all over Georgia. The purpose of the Resource Center is to provide many of the support services that medically fragile children and their families need for safe, effective care and quality of life. The facilities of the Dream House Resource Center will provide for the following services:

- Educational classes and skill labs.
- Respite care for medically fragile children.
- Day care for medically fragile children.
- Transitional foster/group homes for medically fragile children needing temporary residential placement until a long term foster or adoptive home can be found.
- Short-term stay housing for families to live while learning to care for their medically fragile biological, foster or adoptive child.

It is the vision of Dream House to establish a model of transition care in such a way that it will be replicable in any state across the nation impacting the lives of thousands of children, their families and communities. Medically fragile children will once again have a reason to live.

The Future:

As we strive to fulfill our mission and expand our programs and services, we will continually investigate ways to be more productive, efficient and effective. We honor and respect the confidence that has been given to us through our community and donors and want to make sure that we are making decisions that utilize our resources in the best possible way to serve more children and families and benefit the communities that support them.

The Lilburn Dream House Foster Home and the unique model of transition care implemented there, has been 100% successful in improving the health of the children and finding them a permanent home. We are now looking at ways to convert this 'pilot' program into a self-sustaining business model that will continue to support the operation of the this property as well as allow for replication of this Transition Care model to serve even more children and families in other counties. In this process we will be considering many business options to generate resources and support for all of the services and programs that Dream House offers.

None of this would be possible however, without the love and care that has been so generously given from the community. Please know how very vital you are to these children, their families and the Dream House mission. As we continue to grow and serve more families and children we have many needs. Please review the attached wish list and consider helping us with one or more of these items.

We ask for your continued support and hope that if there is ever a question you have regarding our programs or services, you will feel invited to contact us so that we may provide you with additional information and answer any questions you may have. You may call our corporate office: 770-717-7410, send us an email: info@dreamhouseforkids.org, or visit our website: www.dreamhouseforkids.org

Again, thank you for all you do for us. You are a big part of our success and we are truly grateful.

Sincerely,

Laura O. Moore
Founder & President, Dream House for Medically Fragile Children, Inc.
& a very blessed Foster Parent :o)