



Community Benefit and Needs
Report for The Children's
Home of Pittsburgh & Lemieux
Family Center
FY 2013



Mission and Values

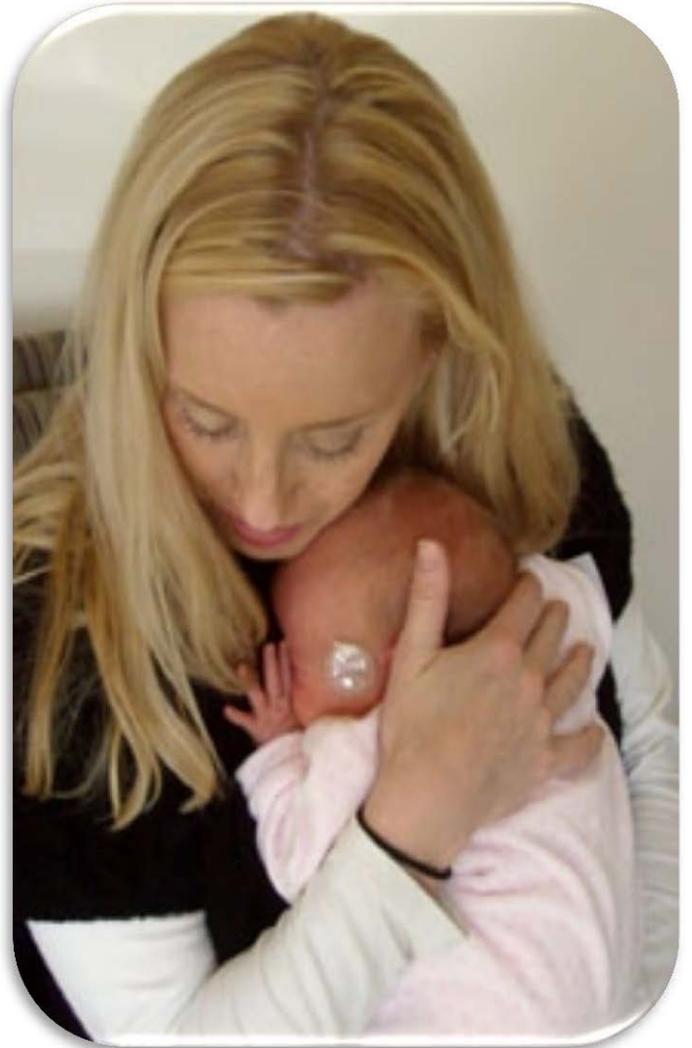
The Children's Home of Pittsburgh, established in 1893, is an independent, non-profit licensed organization whose purpose is to promote the health and well-being of infants and children through services which establish and strengthen the family. Our three programs: Adoption, Child's Way®, and the Pediatric Specialty Hospital, along with our Lemieux Family Center, work independently and collaboratively to accomplish our mission.

Pediatric Specialty Hospital

The Children's Home operates a 16-bed, free-standing specialty hospital, with three specialized units that provide continued acute care for infants and children transitioning from hospital to home.

The Children's Home is a model of family centered care and serves as a bridge between the acute care hospital and home. The hospital offers the family the "hands-on" ability to deal with complicated treatment plans and to recognize potential problems at their earliest stages. In addition, with the help and input from families, The Children's Home creates a care schedule that is feasible for parents to manage at home. The staff devotes many hours helping family members learn to care for the needs of their child by promoting a parent-professional partnership where parents or guardians are part of the care-giving team.

Expertise and experience are the hallmarks of The Children's Home's Pediatric Specialty Hospital. The medical staff includes: neonatologists, pediatricians, and physician specialists. Staff also includes nurse practitioners and registered nurses with between 2 and 30 years of NICU and/or pediatric nursing experience. Physicians who are not on the hospital's staff, but who are following a child admitted to The Children's Home can be granted temporary privileges. Each child's care team includes a physician, a primary care nurse, a medical social worker, an infant/child development specialist, and the parents. An individual treatment plan is developed for every child and is updated throughout the stay. A detailed discharge plan helps ensure that all necessary care and support services, including equipment and medications, are in place to ease the transition to home.





The hospital atmosphere is calm and quiet. Each bed space has a rocking chair beside it and a handmade quilt, which is also a “getting-ready-to-go-home gift” from The Children’s Home’s volunteers. Specially trained individuals volunteer regularly at The Children’s Home to provide “baby holding” services. The pediatric unit is more vibrant, offering a common play area for children who are well enough to leave their patient rooms. The hospital also offers a family living area that includes eight private bedrooms, or “nesting rooms,” the Austin Lemieux Sibling Playroom, full bathrooms, common living rooms and kitchen areas, a washer and dryer, telephones, and an emergency nurse call system connected directly to the nursing station. The nesting rooms allow families the opportunity to care for their infants privately and independently, including overnight stays, with the reassurance that the nursing staff is nearby. For families with older children, the option is available to sleep overnight in the unit with their child. There are no restrictive visiting hours at The Children’s Home, allowing parents’ access to their child at all times. Family members may visit at any time, either at their child’s bed side or in the nesting rooms.

The Children’s Home developed a collaborative telecommunications conferencing project with the cardiothoracic clinical team from Children’s Hospital of UPMC. The staff physicians can now provide timely consultative services to optimize care, improve outcomes and expedite discharge.

Since inception, more than 4,800 babies and children have benefited from The Children’s Home’s specialty care. There were 418 admissions in FY 13, with an average length of stay of 16.3 days and a daily census of 18.7.

Lemieux Family Center

In 2007, The Children’s Home of Pittsburgh became The Children’s Home of Pittsburgh and Lemieux Family Center in recognition of the ongoing and substantial support provided by the Mario Lemieux Foundation. This addition signifies the importance of family at the center of our mission and is physically represented through the many family spaces throughout the building and outdoors, including portions of our large family living area and Austin’s Playroom for siblings. Lemieux Family Center includes living spaces that allow for special family time and create a sense of home and comfort for the children and families we serve.

Child's Way®

Child's Way® is a Pediatric Extended Care Center for medically fragile children ages birth to twenty-one. Originally licensed to age eight, The Children's Home worked with parents and legislators to raise the age limit to twenty-one. On August 3, 2012, Gov. Corbett signed HB 1960 in a ceremony held at The Children's Home. Child's Way offers an alternative or supplement to in-home nursing and therapy care for medically fragile children. Licensed as the first pediatric extended care center in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, this program was established to fill a gap in services in the community.

Over several years of strategic planning, conducting surveys and prudent financial analysis, it was determined that families had no alternative to home care for their medically fragile children. This left families in need without an income or an ability to return to work because they had to stay at home to care for their medically needy children. Child's Way opened its doors in May of 1998 and has now served over 300 children.

On a daily basis, Child's Way provides daytime nursing care (Monday through Friday, 6:30 am to 6:00 pm), child development services, early identification of potential health problems, and high staff to patient ratio (1:3 or 1:4). In addition, Child's Way offers specialized treatments including but not limited to: wound care, feeding therapy, blood draws from peripheral or central lines, ostomy care, tracheotomy care, glucose monitoring, and gastrostomy feedings. Child's Way is a Keystone Star 3 designated facility. The Keystone Stars program is an initiative for quality childcare in Pennsylvania and provides staff training annually to ensure program requirements.

In partnership with Pittsburgh Public Schools, Child's Way is a Supplemental Head Start Preschool program serving 3 of our children in Child's Way. Our teachers and staff have access to more materials and trainings that better the education of our children. As an additional educational component, Child's Way receives several visits a year from:

- The Carnegie Library reading program
- Carnegie Science Center
- The Carnegie Museum
- Pittsburgh Youth Ballet
- Specialized volunteers/presenters providing cultural, musical, therapeutic, or recreational activities.



Education

University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine

Residents of the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine tour Child's Way® and the Pediatric Specialty Hospital as part of their child development rotation. Many physicians who are active medical staff have first been introduced to the medical programs of The Children's Home as a resident.



Nursing Schools in Child's Way

The Child's Way® program provides clinical experience to regional nursing schools as part of their clinical curriculum. Schools that place students in Child's Way include:

- The University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing
- UPMC Shadyside School of Nursing
- UPMC St. Margaret School of Nursing
- Duquesne School of Nursing
- Citizen's General School of Nursing
- Franciscan University, Wheeling, West Virginia
- La Roche College Nursing School
- Mercy Hospital School of Nursing

Nursing Schools in the Hospital

Nursing students receive their clinical experience in pediatrics in the Pediatric Specialty Hospital. Each academic term, the school sends students to work on the hospital floor with patients and their families. The current list of schools:

- University of Pittsburgh
- Duquesne University
- LaRoche College
- West Penn Pittsburgh Technical Institute
- Chatham University

The Pediatric Specialty Hospital also tours many nursing schools as part of the students' pediatric rotation. The tour exposes students to the family-centered acute care services offered in a "home like" environment.

Grand Rounds

Physician and Nursing Grand Rounds were offered three times this year at the Children's Home and is an acceptable educational forum in the medical community. This fiscal year's topics included 'Enteral Feeding Strategies in Patients with Intestinal Failure', 'Palliative Care for the Neonate' and 'Updates for the Care of Children with Spina Bifida'. One CEU credit per program was granted for participation and there were 178 attendees during fiscal year 2013.

Alliance for Infants

Therapists from the Alliance for Infants and Toddlers – an organization for licensed therapists that is the main point of contact for early intervention services in Allegheny County – tour the Hospital as ongoing education regarding resources available in the community.

Adoption Program

For more than 119 years, The Children's Home has been respected in the community and across the country for the quality of work in infant adoption. More than 7,000 infants and young children have been placed with families through The Children's Home. The Adoption Program provides a comprehensive range of services in support of adoptive families, birth families, and adopted children and adults. The success is based on a belief that adoption is not a one-time event, but a lifelong journey. The program offers a lifetime of support services through a staff of experienced professional counselors. The services and programs provided by The Children's Home include infant placement services, which consist of the birthparent counseling program, the adopting family program and the foster care program; post adoption services; private adoption services; infertility counseling; research and reunion; and community education.

The Children's Home is also a leader in the field of open adoption. We began conducting open adoptions 34 years ago and have learned much from the clients we've served and from specialized staff training. Open adoption can be a rewarding, positive experience for all involved – birth families, adoptive families and child – with the right support.

Infant Placement Services

Birthparent Counseling Program. Professional counseling services provide birthparents with nonjudgmental support and guidance. If the birthparents choose adoption, the counselors assist in creating an adoption plan for the baby. Counseling and group support is provided during and after the pregnancy.

Adopting Family Program. Adoptive parents are offered support, counseling and education. A thorough orientation is conducted followed by an application process and the completion of a family study as required by Pennsylvania law.

Foster Care. Short-term foster care is available for babies of birthparents who need time to make a decision about adoption. Foster families are carefully selected, approved and specially trained by staff of the Adoption Program.

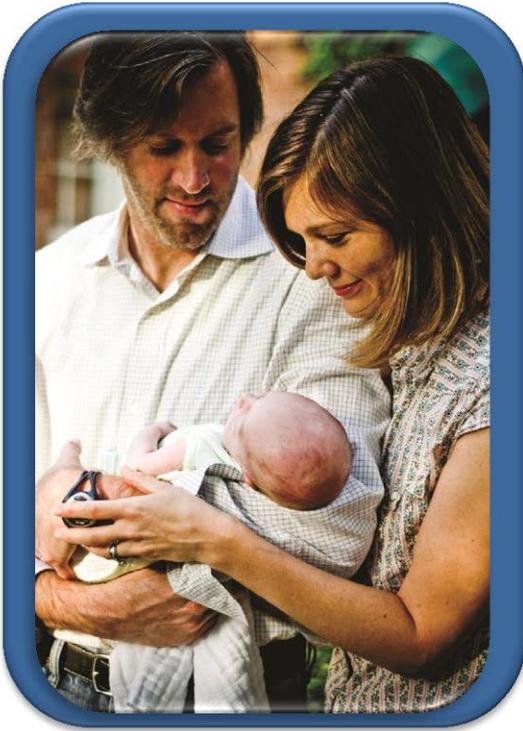
Post-Adoption Services Information, education, consultation and short-term counseling are provided for individuals, couples, and families dealing with adoption-related issues. A variety of adoptive family support groups are also offered.

Additional Services

Private Adoption Counseling Services. We offer individualized, short-term counseling services for birthparents in private adoptions. Services are provided at the recommendation of an attorney, at the request of the birthparent or the prospective adoptive parents, and/or in fulfillment of a legal requirement by the state in which the adoption is to occur.

Infertility Counseling. Infertility-related counseling is available for individuals and couples as they make decisions regarding the testing and treatment of infertility. The Children's Home supports them as they cope with related issues including sexuality, marital conflict, communicating with friends about infertility, and perhaps the possibility of adoption. Services range from single consultations to ongoing support.





Research and Reunion Program. The research and reunion program provides research services and emotional support for adopted people wishing to learn more about their birthparents. Services range from basic birth history information to full searches of sealed court records (after court approval). The Children's Home offers assistance to birthparents who want to be available to the children they placed for adoption, and facilitates reunions.

Community Education. Community adoption educational events, with continuing education units (CEU's), are sponsored by The Children's Home for adoption professionals and other professionals in adoption-related fields. In addition, The Children's Home's adoption professionals are available to other organizations, agencies, and institutions to conduct seminars, training, and consultation concerning a wide range of issues involved with adoption.

SWAN

The Children's Home of Pittsburgh obtained a contract with the Statewide Adoption and Permanency Network (SWAN) in July of 2012. The mission of SWAN is to help children who are in the custody of children, youth and family service agencies to prepare for and to achieve permanency. The adoption program provides two types of units of services under the contract. Child Preparation Units of Service are sessions with a child that help them to understand their history and why they cannot live with their biological parents. This allows each child to grieve losses which better prepares them for a permanent family. Child Profiles are another Unit of Service which involves the social worker gathering extensive research for each child and compiling that information in a document that is used to help understand the child's history and help each child find a permanent family.

Outreach and Adoption Education

The Adoption department provides education to social workers, medical staff and case managers at many hospitals in Southwestern Pennsylvania. The hospital staff finds it beneficial to learn how to better serve their patients who are considering an adoption plan.

Many do not have the time or expertise to counsel them appropriately through the stages of grief as they go through the process of letting go of their child. The staff is relieved when they learn that The Children's Home will handle all of the legalities in adoption, foster care for the infant if necessary and support to the birthparents. They appreciate knowing that when The Children's Home is involved, their patient will be treated with the utmost respect and dignity and that the adoption will be handled professionally by Masters level counselors who are available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

Outreach to pregnant women who are in jail helps the community by providing safe, permanent, loving families for children who may otherwise live a life of instability while their parents fulfill the terms of their incarceration. The Children's Home adoption staff educates the women about openness in adoption. Many are pleased that they can choose the adoptive family for their child and stay in touch with the child and family throughout their lives. When women are educated

about the benefits of adoption, they may be more likely to understand that they are providing their child with a happy, stable life which they cannot provide at this time in their life.

High Schools in the Pittsburgh area and beyond appreciate the knowledge that The Children's Home provides to their health and family education classes. Students are always fascinated to learn about the details of adoption as it is today, as many are touched by adoption in one way or another. It also gives them knowledge to pass on to friends who may experience an unplanned pregnancy at some time in the future. Guidance counselors and school nurses also benefit from adoption education because they can better assist students who may become pregnant. For many students who cannot face the idea of abortion or parenting, adoption may be the only reasonable alternative for them. Once they understand adoption, they are better able to make an educated decision about what is best for them.

The Children's Home attends numerous college and university health fairs throughout southwestern Pennsylvania to educate students, faculty and staff about adoption through an educational game. Participants spin a brightly colored wheel and read the adoption myth on the space where the pointer lands. They match the myth with the adoption reality and read the reality. Then participants may choose a prize such as sugar-free gum, snacks, or a pen. Participants may take away brochures or the flyer that includes all the adoption myths and realities for their reference.

Collaborations

Safe Place Program

The Children's Home is part of the Safe Place collaborative program. Safe Place is the first step to help for any youth in crisis or at risk. This community collaboration program, operated by youth shelters or youth serving agencies make it possible for any youth to access help at locations which display the Safe Place sign. Safe Place connects youth to immediate help and safety and offers supportive services to both youth and their families.

Outside Organizations

The Children's Home has expanded its awareness within the community by offering its meeting space to local groups free of charge. We are pleased to be a resource to these valuable organizations. Groups that have utilized our space include:

- Helping Hands Healing Hearts
- Aching Arms
- Mended Little Hearts
- Jeremiah's Place
- Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Bereavement Support Group
- Friendship Development Association
- Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation
- Friendship Preservation Group



Who We Serve

As a pediatric specialty hospital, pediatric extended care center, and adoption program, our mission is to serve the medically fragile population from birth to age 18 in the greater Allegheny County. We welcome patients from our surrounding hospitals, including Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh UPMC, Magee Womens Hospital of UPMC, West Penn Allegheny Hospital and outlying hospitals. Our hospital provides acute care for infants and children transitioning from the hospital to home.