



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **New Resource Available for Parents, Families of Children Receiving Pediatric Homecare**

**Harrisburg, Pa. (September 23, 2019)** – Today, parents and families from across Pennsylvania joined pediatric homecare providers and the Pennsylvania Homecare Association (PHA) at the state Capitol to unveil *The Care We Share: A Family Guide to In-Home Pediatric Care*. This 36-page, full color magazine is available free of charge to Pennsylvania families, and includes helpful information and tips as they bring home a child with complex medical conditions – along with lots of medical equipment, full-time nurses and caregivers, and a hectic “new normal.”

Cindy Maloney of Harrisburg, whose five-year-old daughter Lavender was born at 23 weeks weighing just one pound, spoke at the unveiling of this resource and also shared her family’s story in the magazine. She said at two days old, Lavender suffered a severe brain hemorrhage that caused the loss of two-thirds of the right side of her brain. Doctors were not optimistic that Lavender would survive, but Cindy was. “They’d ask what our plans for her were, and I would always answer that she was coming home with us,” she said.

Lavender battles cerebral palsy, epilepsy, neurological damage, and seizures. But with the help of her supportive parents, and 10 hours of in-home nursing care per day, she is reaching important milestones, such as sitting and rolling. “We do this as a team,” Cindy said about her in-home nursing team. “It has to be a group effort. I’d love to say that I am a superwoman, but it’s not possible because I’ve tried. I’ve gone without a nurse for a month, and I was so frazzled. You have to realize that you need help.”

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, nearly 4,000 children in Pennsylvania receive shift nursing care at home.

“Caring for a child with significant disabilities or complex medical needs is a challenge for the parents and families who love them,” said PHA CEO Teri Henning, Esq. “These families need strong supports in place to keep their child at home with the family and so they can work and continue to care for other children. Pediatric shift nursing is designed to offer the highest quality care to children, while easing the burden on parents and other family members.”

The magazine features real-life stories from three Pennsylvania families and a pediatric nurse. It also includes helpful resources like a checklist for being discharged from the hospital, options for different types of medical equipment your child may need in the home, and financial resources to help pay for your child’s care.

*The Care We Share: A Family Guide to In-Home Pediatric Care* is available by calling PHA at 1-800-382-1211, or through any of PHA’s homecare, home health and hospice provider members. [Click here](#) for a searchable list by county.

**About PHA...** The Pennsylvania Homecare Association is a statewide organization of more than 700 home health, homecare, and hospice providers. PHA members provide quality care and serve as advocates for their patients and clients on a variety of healthcare related issues. PHA and its members work hard to improve professional standards and ensure access to quality homecare throughout the Commonwealth. To learn more, visit [www.pahomecare.org](http://www.pahomecare.org).

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