



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

Free Resource Available for Families of PA Children with Complex Medical Needs

Lemoyne, Pa. (January 13, 2020) —The Pennsylvania Homecare Association (PHA) has developed *The Care We Share: A Family Guide to In-Home Pediatric Care*. This 36-page resource is available free of charge to Pennsylvania families, and includes helpful information and tips as they bring home a child with complex medical needs such as ventilators, trach collars, and feeding tubes. Articles range from coordinating shift nursing to preparing your home for durable medical equipment, and more.

The resource also features parents who utilize home-based care for their children, including Cindy Maloney of Harrisburg. Her five-year old daughter Lavender was born at 23 weeks and has faced a number of serious medical issues, including cerebral palsy, epilepsy, neurological damage and seizures. Currently the Maloney family uses 10 hours of in-home nursing care daily to help Lavender reach important milestones.

When it comes to care for Lavender, mom Cindy acknowledges, “It has to be a group effort. I’d love to say that I am a superwoman and can do everything because that’s my mentality. But it’s not possible because I’ve tried. We needed an extra set of hands at least a couple of days a week. You have to realize that you need help.”

PHA is focused on making quality care available at home and this resource is one of the many initiatives the association does annually to help provide community awareness for home-based care. Families that have children with complex medical needs or providers that serve medically complex children are encouraged to order copies of *The Care We Share* by contacting PHA at 1-800-382-1211.

In addition to direct outreach to families, PHA has created partnerships with UPMC Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, Penn State Children’s Hospital, Children’s Miracle Network, PA Vent Camp and more to assist families navigate their new normal. So far, over 2,000 copies have been distributed to families with more being shared daily.

The information published in *The Care We Share* is also available online, and can be found at: www.pahomecare.org/the-care-we-share-a-family-guide-to-in-home-pediatric-care.

“As a parent, your primary focus is always on what’s best for your child. When your child is facing significant medical challenges, it can be scary to figure out where to start,” said PHA CEO Teri Henning. “We are here to be a support and resource for parents to help navigate the resources that are available to care for their child at home.”

About PHA... The Pennsylvania Homecare Association is a statewide organization of more than 425 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.

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