



Noah's Children[®]

Fact Sheet

- ▶ About 45,000 children of Central Virginia's 300,000 children have special health care needs.
- ▶ About 7% (3,000 to 3,500) of these children are living with a life-threatening illness or condition and need palliative care.
- ▶ About 10% (300 to 350) of those children die each year and are in need of hospice care.

Noah's Children is Central Virginia's first and only home-based pediatric palliative care and hospice program.

About Us

Founded in 1997 by Richmond pediatrician Dr. Bob Archuleta, Noah's Children cares for children and their families when the child has been diagnosed with a life-threatening or life-limiting illness or condition. We were among the first pediatric palliative care and hospice programs in the country. Noah's Children, part of Bon Secours Children's Services, serves all hospitals and medical facilities in Central Virginia.

Services

Given a choice, most children would prefer to be cared for at home, surrounded by loving family and friends. Noah's Children, **exclusively for children and their families**, provides comprehensive palliative care services delivered through an interdisciplinary team, including the primary care pediatrician or family physician, a palliative care physician, a registered nurse, a social worker, a chaplain and volunteers.

Services Offered Are:

- ▶ End-of-life planning and care
- ▶ Pain and symptom management
- ▶ Disease management and education
- ▶ Assistance with transitions from the hospital to home and from the home to the hospital
- ▶ Medication management and education
- ▶ Social, emotional and spiritual support
- ▶ Creative therapies and therapeutic play
- ▶ Perinatal palliative care
- ▶ Siblings support programs
- ▶ Bereavement support

How is Noah's Children Different?

- ▶ Only home-based program in Central Virginia dedicated exclusively to maximizing the quality of life for terminally ill children and their families
- ▶ Acceptance of patients from the time of diagnosis (traditional hospices accept patients only during the final stages of illness)
- ▶ Families may choose to continue curative treatments (traditional hospice only accepts patients who agree to palliative care)
- ▶ Complementary therapies, especially the creative arts
- ▶ Bereavement services for up to three years

Impact

Nationally and locally, children with special health care needs consume 78% of the health care dollars spent on children. They comprise about 10% of the pediatric care population. Home-based hospice and palliative care is more effective both in terms of the care given and in terms of dollars spent. Noah's Children is at the forefront of this new area of pediatric care.

Funding

Bon Secours Children's Services covers Noah's operating costs; however, community giving supports social, emotional and complementary therapies and services.

Eligibility and Referrals

Noah's Children accepts patients from the time of a life-threatening or life-limiting diagnosis, needing palliative care or hospice services. The patients' physician is not replaced by Noah's Children but works in conjunction with the team to provide appropriate care for the child.

How You Can Help

Donations to Noah's Children are accepted through the **Bon Secours Richmond Health Care Foundation:**

**7229 Forest Avenue, Suite 200
Richmond, VA 23226
804-287-7700, www.bsvaf.org**



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