



Children's House at Johns Hopkins Hospital

“A Home-Away-From-Home When It’s Needed Most”

The mission of The Children's House at Johns Hopkins Hospital is to provide a family-centered supportive residence for critically-ill children receiving treatment at the world-renowned Johns Hopkins Children's Center. We believe in keeping families together in the midst of medical crisis, to reduce stress and to promote self-help and mutual support. We believe that the highest standards of service and unparalleled hospitality help to create a unique healing environment, where families find hope and comfort.

Brief Background Description

The Children's House at Johns Hopkins Hospital (“TCH”) opened its doors in January 1993. More than 3,000 volunteers and over 300 companies joined forces with Believe In Tomorrow to build and furnish this “home-away-from-home” for children with serious illnesses and their families. This four-level, fifteen-bedroom facility serves as a model for pediatric hospital housing throughout the country and is located just steps away from the entrance to the hospital. TCH provides an average of 2,000 individual overnight accommodations each month, having served families from every state in the U.S. and more than 82 countries worldwide.

TCH is fully equipped for families to rest and renew their energy in solace, cook and share meals together, do laundry, and enjoy recreation with others in a playroom, a library, TV rooms and the newly renovated, state-of-the-art video game room. The primary population is families of both inpatients and outpatients from the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. All families are referred by a hospital professional, usually a social worker, a doctor or nurse, and stay at TCH free of charge.

Programs and Services

TCH provides a wide variety of programs and services to residents. Our goal is to continuously evaluate the needs of the children and families that we serve, and to create additional programs and services to meet those needs more effectively in the years to come. Highlighted below is a sampling of programs and services provided this year.

- Volunteers arranged a variety of activities for children and families including parties, movie night, arts and crafts and special entertainment nights. Volunteer

van drivers transported families to local adventures including the National Aquarium, the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, the Maryland Science Center and local sporting events. TCH provided complimentary passes to many of these locations.

- Volunteer groups such as alumni associations, civic groups, and professional organizations donated their time and talents by participating in the “Family Suppers Program.” This program allows volunteers to provide an evening meal and then interact with the residents in a friendly setting. Dinners were provided almost every night, with a record number of dinners scheduled this past year. We also developed a Sunday Brunch Program and instituted a weekday Breakfast Program.
- Volunteer groups and individuals also assisted in many day-to-day operations of the house including: checking families in and out of the house, answering the phones, cleaning, maintenance, providing transportation to families using the company-owned van, and other essential activities.
- Three very popular volunteer endeavors include homemade quilts (Project Linus), therapy dog visits and seated massages.