From Hospital 2 Home
CHECK OUT PICTURES FROM OUR PEDIATRIC NURSING CONFERENCE, HELD IN ROCHESTER ON MARCH 26

See more photos from the day at: Facebook.com/PediatricHomeService

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Alex & Levi take on college

PLUS:
Meet infusion nurse Mary Brown-Kelly, get updates on our legislative advocacy, and a recap of our nursing conference.
Levi and Alex fill their days with the same activities as most college students – going to class, hanging out with friends, getting homework done and playing video games or setting up a draft. They’ve settled into on-campus living and are enjoying the independence that comes with it.

At 20 and 21 years old, these brothers long outlived the prognosis their mom, Beth, received when Alex was born with myotubular myopathy and Levi came along just over a year later with the same condition. PHS has been along for their journey since 1996.

Thanks to 24/7 nursing, consistent respiratory therapy, and infusion therapy when needed, Alex and Levi were able to grow up in a home environment where their learning was encouraged – leading them to where they are today.

Meet Alex, Levi, and more 25 year all-stars at: PediatricHomeService.com/blog/category/25-year-all-stars

Meet Mary Brown-Kelly
TURNING IV STRESS INTO SUCCESS

With close to 30 years of experience as a nurse, Mary Brown-Kelly has the career she set out for after deciding to follow in her sister’s footsteps. And although she didn’t realize it at the time, Mary was destined to be an infusion therapy nurse at PHS before she even knew such a role existed.

“When I was working as a floor nurse in the oncology unit at a local hospital, I dealt with all kinds of lines and lab draws,” says Mary. “We did antibiotics, total parenteral nutrition, blood products - I was an infusion nurse before I knew I was an infusion nurse.”

Today, Mary finds meaning in following a patient’s journey and seeing them grow from a child who fears a dressing change to one who is able to start and finish an infusion without any role existed.

“To see that progress and see they feel comfortable and know it’s okay - that’s awesome,” says Mary with a smile.

Read more about Mary: PediatricHomeService.com/blog/meet-mary-brown-kelly

Smart Legislation
ADVOCATING FOR OUR KIDS

When PHS is at the Capitol, advocating for Minnesota’s most vulnerable population, there is one overarching message we have for legislators – kids deserve to thrive at home. Our staff and supporters know the legislation we fight for will help keep kids there.

During the 2015 session, PHS has been focused on two bills that will ensure access to specialized medical technologies and high quality care for children with medical complexities. The first - keeping Medicare pricing cuts out of Medicaid – will protect patient access to critical medical equipment and supplies, and the second – establishing a new reimbursement tier for home care nursing – focuses on providing adequate compensation for the highly skilled work our home care nurses deliver.

It has been a busy few months as the bills move through the Senate and House, and along with incredible family advocates, PHS has had the opportunity to provide meaningful testimony at hearings.

Learn about bill updates: PediatricHomeService.com/blog/legislative-update-2015

Message from Our Medical Director
CONFERENCE HELPS EDUCATE

PHS recently sponsored a nursing conference focused on transitioning pediatric patients from the hospital to home. Attendees received information on this quickly growing population through presentations including the history of pediatric home care, hospital training for parents with technology-dependent children, and pediatric pain and palliative care.

With this growth comes an increasing demand for home care nurses, as children with medical complexities are not only living at home but also living longer, thanks to improved technology. However, recruiting and retaining skilled nurses in home care is compromised by reimbursement rates that make it impossible to provide equitable pay to comparable positions in the hospital setting.

The conference helped educate nursing students as well as current nurses and other health care professionals on the benefits and opportunities in home care to help address this urgent need.

Read more: PediatricHomeService.com/blog/conference-recap

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