

# Voting is Open! Tell Us Your 2018 Top Spots

OUR SECOND ANNUAL RESOURCE FOR SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILIES



Last year, we introduced you to PHS Top Spots - a resource that makes it easier for families to find the best places in Minnesota that are set up to accommodate special needs.

The survey is back, but we need your input before May 31 to help us build it! Simply visit [PHSTopSpotsSurvey.com](http://PHSTopSpotsSurvey.com) and cast your vote. Include your contact information at the bottom and you could win one of four \$50 gift cards.

**Vote for your top spots at:**  
**[PHSTopSpotsSurvey.com](http://PHSTopSpotsSurvey.com)**



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Be sure to visit the Thrive blog at  
**[PediatricHomeService.com/blog](http://PediatricHomeService.com/blog)**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

# Helping Jordan Maintain a Smooth Path

### PLUS:

Lessons learned in transitioning a daughter into adult care, A Gillette nurse shares common transition mistakes, and your chance to vote for the best spots in MN



# Thriving at Home

## WITH HOME CARE, NO NEED TO WORRY



Jordan's Duchenne muscular dystrophy diagnosis means he relies on a vent to assist with his breathing and a feeding pump to provide him with

nourishment - and when he first started working with PHS to provide this durable medical equipment, he wasn't entirely convinced it would be a smooth process.

"When I initially started with PHS I thought, oh great - another company we're going to have to jump through hoops with," said

Jordan. "But they were very efficient and caring and it was such a nice change of pace from the frustration we'd had for years (with other companies)."

Today Jordan stays healthy and full of stories of adventures that he shares with his PHS respiratory therapist, Robi.

"Robi really makes me feel comfortable," Jordan added. "Even though he roots for the wrong hockey team, we have a lot of fun and he kind of keeps the chaos of disability from being my problem."

**To learn more about Jordan, see his video at [JordanThrives.com](http://JordanThrives.com).**



### A Multifaceted Process

#### HELPING COMPLEX CHILDREN TRANSITION INTO ADULTHOOD

"When we found out my daughter Tana would be born with spina bifida after my 20-week ultrasound, I knew our family's world would forever be changed - but I could have never anticipated the light she would bring to everybody she meets.

Over 20 years later, my girl is still shining bright - but she isn't so little anymore. Tana is now an adult, and with that comes a shift in how we view everything from her medical care to her personal relationships. These transitions don't just happen on their own, and they certainly aren't always easy - but they are necessary as this population of children with medical complexities increasingly turns into adults with medical complexities."

**Read the entire article Jill Wall wrote for Complex Child at:**

**[PediatricHomeService.com/blog/transitioning-medically-complex-child](http://PediatricHomeService.com/blog/transitioning-medically-complex-child)**

### Three Common Transition Mistakes Families Make

#### A GILLETTE NURSE SHARES TIPS

Laura Kane, RN, BSN, is a nursing supervisor at Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare and doctoral student at the University of Minnesota.

As part of her program, she has recently been working in partnership with PHS to develop processes and tools for transitioning medically complex adolescents into adulthood.

Recently, Laura gathered what she's learned and shared the top three mistakes she sees families making in the transition process - and how to avoid them.

1. Waiting to start the conversation
2. Only thinking about their healthcare
3. Assuming all medical records are immediately accessible

**Learn more about these common errors and their solutions at:**

**[PediatricHomeService.com/blog/mistakes-in-transitioning](http://PediatricHomeService.com/blog/mistakes-in-transitioning)**

### Message From Our Medical Director

#### TAKEAWAYS FROM THE 'GROWING UP COMPLEX' CONFERENCE PANEL

On April 29, PHS partnered with Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare and University of Northwestern to present *Growing Up Complex: Creating a Seamless Transition from Pediatrics to Adulthood*.

Five points in the panel discussion about transitioning patients deserve more emphasis:

1. Successful transition means different things to different people
2. The earlier the transition process is started, the better the outcome
3. A smooth transition is a team effort
4. Find - and be - a strong advocate for the patient throughout the process
5. There's more to a patient than a medical record

**Read Dr. Maynard's top takeaways at:**

**[PediatricHomeService.com/blog/top-conference-takeaways](http://PediatricHomeService.com/blog/top-conference-takeaways)**

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