

## *Pediatric Supportive Care Team*

embraces families  
during life's most  
difficult journey

Every parents' worst fears are realized when their children are sick or injured. Even worse is when those illnesses or injuries are life-limiting or life-threatening. At WVU Children's Hospital, the Pediatric Supportive Care Team is available to help parents and families during these most difficult times.

When Joshua Dower, MD, was completing his residency training in pediatrics at WVU, he dreamed of having a service like the Supportive Care Team. In January 2012, that dream came true when he, Dolly Ford, MSW, clinical social worker, and Christy Orndorff, RN, nurse clinician, officially started working as a team with families at WVU Children's.

The youngest patients the Supportive Care Team works with are the unborn babies diagnosed with health problems in the womb. The team will work with that family when the baby is born, through admission to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and during any stays in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit or general pediatrics unit.

Ford said the best-case scenario is for the team to be brought into the process as early as possible. That way, as families are introduced to new doctors and new units of



the hospital, they will always have the familiar faces of the Supportive Care Team to help them through.

The Supportive Care Team consults with every pediatric subspecialty at WVU Children's Hospital, including, but not limited to cardiology, cardiac surgery, hematology/oncology, infectious diseases, neurology, neurosurgery, and trauma.

"When families are at their lowest, when they've lost a child, the natural order of life has been reversed. It's like watching the sand in an hourglass stop flowing," Dr. Dower said. "In the middle of that, my voice breaks the silence. My voice gives them permission to share their fears and concerns, to share the hopes and dreams they've put on hold. There are times when we all need carried through, when we need a light on the path ahead of us. That's what we're here for."



### Consider Making a Planned Gift

Remembering WVU Children's Hospital in your will is a wonderful way to ensure that the goodness in your heart continues to help children after you're gone. A commitment to WVU Children's is a gift of life, health, and faith in the future. Learn more at [givetowvukids.com](http://givetowvukids.com).